

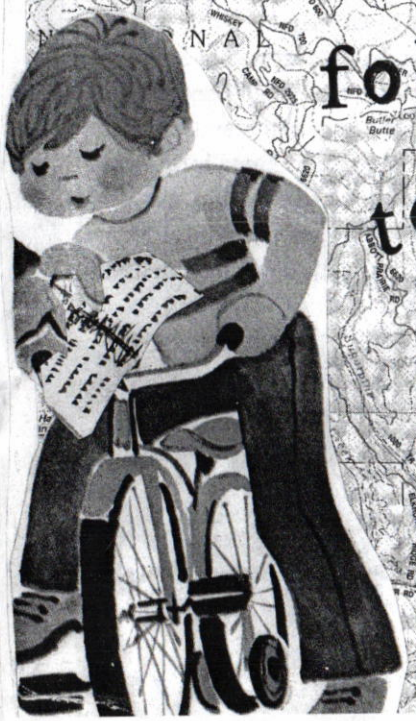
RIOT FOLK

gasfast



over 1,000 miles of car-free folk music!

about A folk music tour by bicycle



gasfast



over 1,000 miles of car-free folk music!

seattle, WA-	manzanita, OR-	corvallis, OR
july 22nd	august 7th	august 21
$5-$15	mother nature's	rob.gandara@hp.com
not in our name benefit	natural foods	
1609 19th ave	howell's courtyard	eugene, OR
	298 laneda ave	august 26 - TBA
july 23rd	503-368-5316	
with anne feeney!	chai@nehalemtel.net	cottage grove, OR
long beach beach party!	616 E. Burnside	TBA
25211 pacific way 6:30pm	8:30 pm	
1/2 mile s. of ocean		arcata, CA
park	salem, OR	september 13th
10 miles n. of long	august 18th	redwood peace and
beach	dragonfly coffee company	justice center
logans@javacs.com	140 17 st.	1040 H street
	izadorethan@yahoo.com	9pm
astoria, OR-		with brenna
august 5th KMUN 91.9		sahatjian

in the summer of 2005 two radical folk singers embarked on a one-thousand mile music tour down the west coast by bicycle.

they began in mid-july and by mid-september they had performed over twenty-three shows in over seventeen towns and biked 1,320 miles. they slept in barns, pitched tents on roadsides, stayed in the house of a city council member, the r.v. of a rural partner-abuse activist, the moon lodge of a native-based intentional community, occupied a queer-owned coffee shop under attack by bigoted locals, squated watersheds, and dreamt amidst redwoods. here they share information about planning and carrying out a musical bike tour and share some helpful thoughts about the gasfast tour.

RIOT FOLK
www.riotfolk.org

BELLA CIAO

Si yo muero
EN EL COMBATE
O' Bella ciao
si yo muero en el combate
Toma en tus manos
MI FUSIL
es mi deseo seguir luchando
O' Bella ciao
ES MI DESEO SEGUIR LUCHANDO
POR LA LIBERACION MUNDIAL
Soy anarquista
toda la vida O' Bella ciao
Soy anarquista
toda la vida y anarquista
de morir



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de morir

BELLA CIAO

Going on the DNC2RNC march and then the gasfast tour the following summer made me feel like I am part of a movement of people all over the world who want radical, proactive shifts to occur in our social landscapes and organization.

On the march, a womon who had gone to the WTO (world trade organization) protests of 2003, taught me and some other womyn the old Italian folk song *bella ciao*, but with words she and some others had made up in Spanish.

I taught it to Adhamh on the gasfast tour and we sang it in harmony at all of our shows, telling the following story:

I met an activist on the dnc2rnc march who heard this song sung by a small group of Italian womyn who were part of a larger group of hundreds of womyn tearing down the fences at the WTO meeting in Mexico. The police at the fence were moved to tears by this female-led and executed action and didn't commit any acts of violence towards them. The womyn were armed with large wire cutters and ropes and pulleys to climb up on the fences and bring them down. They successfully pulled down at least one of the fences, but there were about 7 holding the protesters back from the meeting. This song is our global movement embodied in music. It is an old folk song from Italy, a song passed on from throat to throat. A song that is alive and changing just like we are. A song that, in this context, signifies the crucial role womyn and female-bodied people have to play in our global justice movements.

So that's it, my part of the GASFAST zine. If you would like to get in touch with me, email me at:

thistle@riseup.net
www.thistlespace.com

We are everywhere. We are many. They are few. Rise like Lions.

this ride is meant to show that working musicians can tour without burning fossil fuels for their transportation.

we believe that another world based on mutual aid, humyn-powered machines, and social justice is possible!

making choices about how we use our resources is one step in the proces: of creating this world.

we are using music as a weapon against capitalism and injustice while autonomously propelling ourselves at an earthly speed.

An account of how thistle and adhamh met

by thistle

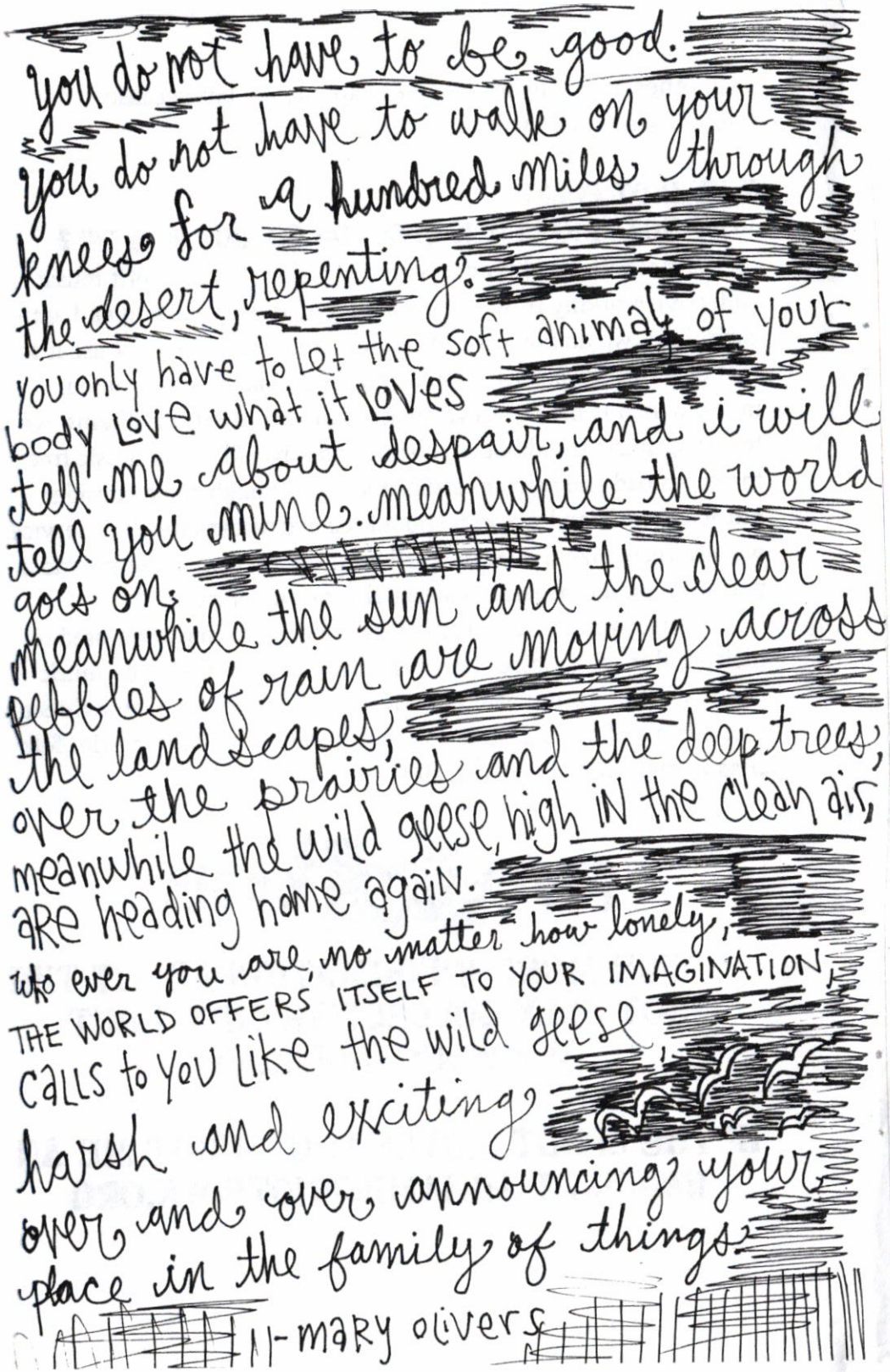
Taking off on my bicycle in September of 2003 with no real destination except for "south" because winter was coming, left me wind-swept and self-actualized in an animal sort of way. I left Wisconsin that Fall after quitting my full-time job, selling my car and giving up the house I was renting with my partner. We had planned and schemed together for two years before we actually gave ourselves to the road. Both of us were in search of a simpler existence and a way to protest wars for oil on a daily basis through our choices. We didn't quite know how we were going to make money but I booked music gigs ahead of time with activist organizations along our route in hopes of getting donations. One of the places we stopped was St. Louis where I had arranged to play a show through the catholic workers. I ended up getting a hundred dollars that night and it was a really enjoyable experience. It left me feeling confident and excited about doing other shows along the way.

Anna and some of his friends came to my performance and sat like high school kids at the lunch table in a tight circle in back. It turns out, he was in high school at the time, a senior, but his music is wiser than his years and both of us are all about working through differences and things that might oppress us such as ageism.

He opened for David Rovics the night after my show and we played for one another at a campfire afterwards. That's it. That's how we met. We only knew each other for two days before we did the gasfast tour. I'm so happy it worked out.

Freedom from constraint, silence, puritans, america, the social contract of the road, buckles, straight-jackets, conceptual architectures, walls, embargos, perfection, no, red lights, off, handcuffs, jail, distance, personal space, inhibition, 12-tone temperament, tradition, picture frames, maps, repression, jesus, clean, dishonesty, nietzche's apollo, placitudes, peace, private property, capitalism, police, lithium

-jesse



THE BEGINNING OF IT ALL by adhamh

the notion of (co)composing a zine had never entered my mind until cycling the hills of northern oregon outside of manzanita on the 2005 gasfast tour. i was dreaming along with the metered tempo of my pedaling and wanting to share the stories and the moments and the views and the people and all of the magic that only a music tour by bicycle could bring into my life. then it occurred to me that i really just want folks to know how simple it can be to experience all of this grandeur! i wanted to share what i was learning on my first bike trip so maybe the fears and reservations of a future touring biker might not be so ominous. i wanted to dispel every myth and turnoff that may have discouraged me from embarking on one of the most incredible experiences of my young life. i wanted to tell my story and maybe throw the cloak of intimidation off of the concept of bike touring. i wanted to make bike touring accessible in a way, and relay just how easy it is to map out a route, make your own bike bags (panniers), and even plan a folk music tour along the way.

so after two months of bicycle/music touring i'm back in my home town and home base, st. louis, where i met thistle exactly two years ago when she came through on her first bicycle/music tour. after seeing each other perform at respective shows, we shared our stories and music around an urban campfire surrounded by the bombed out blight of north st. louis. thistle spent the next several months biking to her new home in austin as i grudgingly completed my last year of high school.

i never expected to see thistle again let alone hear that she had connected with many of my friends on the dnc2rnc march (a march and mobile village of resistance that began protesting in boston at the democratic national convention and ended in nyc to demonstrate at the republican national convention). but as i was beginning my first quarter at college i realized that i wanted to pursue music and travel in a sustainable way and that school wasn't really for me at the time. i contacted thistle about touring together and after several months of deliberation she agreed. hooray! i would be able to tour with a wonderful female folksinger, experienced cyclist, and friend of many friends.

i had made contacts in the northwest while living there for a bit and a bike ride down the west coast seemed like an easy route. before we took off i was really hesitant about the whole trip and was constantly doubting myself. i couldn't actually picture myself biking that far and dealing with other logistical and emotional stuff that comes up during tours, but once i got going i kept re-energizing—it was inertia. the gasfast tour helped me gain a sense of patience and awareness that i had never experienced. autonomously propelling ourselves and organizing the trip was super empowering and being able to explore the biospheres around us by bicycle gave me a glimpse of hope that these habitats ca be preserved by making more conscious choices about how we use our natural resources.

ADHAMH'S DISCLAIMER

I AM WRITING FROM MY EXPERIENCE BASED ON ONE TRIP I'VE TAKEN ON A BIKE DOWN THE WEST COAST. I WAS NOT TRAVELING WITH SMALL CHILDREN, I AM NOT A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, I AM NOT A PERSON OF COLOR, I MADE MONEY ON THE WAY TO COVER THE COST OF FOOD, AND I HAD THE FORTUNE OF GETTING ALONG WITH MY TRAVEL PARTNER AND HAVING GOOD WEATHER.

EVERYONE'S EXPERIENCE WILL BE AND SHOULD BE DIFFERENT... BECAUSE WE ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

I KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE CAN TAKE OFF WORK OR BRING THEIR CHILDREN ON A BIKE TOUR. I KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE OR HAVE A VERY WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF CARS. I KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS HAD SAFE, POSITIVE EXPERIENCES ON BIKE TOURS AND THAT'S WHY I AM SPEAKING FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS AN EASY TRIP, THERE WERE CHALLENGING MOMENTS AND LONG DAYS, BUT I WOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE THE RESOURCES, THE DESIRE, AND THE ENERGY TO EMBARK ON A PEDAL POWERED JOURNEY TO TAKE WHAT THEY CAN FROM THIS ZINE AND GO FOR IT!

SPOKES AND FOLK,
ADHAMH



P.S. I COMPILED THIS ZINE IN THE SPRING ON '06 AFTER RECEIVING THISTLE'S CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAIL.

each other, not only because we share money but because individual's choices will reflect the collective.

WHY RIOT FOLK?
WHY NOT "RIOT FOLK RECORDS CO. INC. © ® ™" ?

riot folk was founded as and remains an anti-profit music collective working from the principles of anti-oppression and anti-capitalism. we do not wish to capitalize on our music, but use it as a tool or a weapon against capitalism. we do make money on our music which is mostly recycled as funding for tours or albums. we feel that music should be accessible and have all of our music free for download and free/donation at shows. though some consider music as work, and workers should receive returns for their services we also recognize the mutual privilege between an audience and a performer and that returns aren't always monetary.

throughout the history of struggle, music has been used to incite and inspire masses—movements have been fueled by music and music has been fueled by movements. music has been a threat t capitalism and other systems of oppression in the past and riot folk aims to make folk a threat again!

RIOT FOLK

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIOT FOLK COLLECTIVE CHECK OUT WWW.RIOTFOLK.ORG

IF THE SPIRIT MOVES YOU, SHOOT ME AN EMAIL AT ADHAMH@RIOTFOLK.ORG

the group decided that sharing resources like contacts, a website, recording equipment, and funds would help us promote each other's music while being promoted by each other. by assuming a collective identity, riot folk, we could reach a broader audience that would have access to each member's music. riot folk created an built-in network of folks to tour with, record with, bounce ideas off of, and give and receive support from. it also gave us the opportunity to be a resource for other radical projects—performing shows as benefits or in solidarity with an action.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN RIOT FOLK?

working as a collective means several things. we agree to have a collective fund wherein members can give what they can and take from it what they need. our group decisions are made by consensus and all withdrawals from the group fund over fifty dollars must be agreed upon. because we are collectively represented, it is important that no one in the collective disagrees with another's politics or expression to the point of non-association. so at the onset, we got a feel of everyone's politics and music and have since, tried to be communicative about such matters. we often have conference calls to check-in, bring up new ideas, plan tours and albums, and talk about finances. we also try to have all of the members converge at least once a year to discuss large issues.

maintaining the collective structure of riot folk requires a lot of trust and communication (which is usually in the form of emails 'cause we're kinda decentralized and the eight of us are spread around the country). some folks in the group prefer to make their music a central part of their income and lives while others would rather not be known for their music but other political action they can take. some riot folkers have qualms with being represented by certain publications and media outlets while others appreciate any coverage the collective can get. these differences must be navigated and, when it comes to representation of the collective, a consensus must be reached. in order to work in the context of riot folk we need to check each other on how we represent each other and the choices individuals make that reflect the collective and we need to trust

GAS FAST: an intentional fasting from burning gasoline for one's personal transportation for a determined period of time. **(we fasted from gas for two months)**

The gasfast tour was an adventure that brought two like-minded folk singers together for a bicycle music journey that will always be a memory of humyn-powered success in this biker's mind. The tour was spun through emails and phone calls starting in November of 2004 and ending with a two month, over 1,000 mile ride from Seattle to Arcata. The two folk singers were me, Thistle from Madison, Wisconsin and Anna Roland, from St. Louis. Anna and I had only met briefly, around a campfire in St. Louis after the David Rovics show he opened for. I was in the process of leaving the mundane goals of middle class livelihood behind and riding my bicycle south for the winter when I met Anna. The moon and magic of that night lingered for us both so we had a good idea we would get along as traveling companions.

Something else that brought us together was our politics. I marched from Boston to New York with the dnc2rnc march the Summer of 2004 to protest the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and met a lot of people from all over the country who were trying to create sustainable autonomous communities in the face of hierarchical electoral political stampeding. Some of the folks on the march were from St. Louis and told Anna about meeting and working with me so he knew I would be a good companion on the road through mutual friends.

It is worth explaining what the dnc2rnc march was for me, in order to provide the reader with a backdrop for what the gasfast tour was. A group of college students from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington cooked up the idea the Winter of 2003. They started meeting regularly and even got some professors to

☞AMERICANS DRIVE AS MANY MILES EACH YEAR AS ALL DRIVERS IN THE REST OF THE WORLD COMBINED!

support their efforts in planning a month long, 258 mile march from Boston to New York. They sent out a call for marchers the Spring of 2004 and activists from all walks of life responded and began planning to come together in a mobile village that would both challenge and delight us throughout its duration. I met so many amazing people on the march, and got to experiment with group decision making, collective sleeping arrangements, affinity groups and social organizing in a way that mass-mobilizations had never allowed for me before. Usually, when you get together with activists from all over the country, it is to protest on the streets for a few days and then everybody goes home. The DNC2RNC march gave us the opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level and to form coalitions and solidarity that would last through time. It also gave us the opportunity to explore our shortcomings as activists and forced us to face one another in tough and stressful surroundings, such as the police state in new york city.

So after the march of 2004, I was looking for something to do the following Summer and got word from Anna that he was interested in doing a bike/music tour. Anna is part of a collective of radical musicians (riot folk) that I admire so I was excited that he wanted to do a tour with me. I am still excited and amazed that we pulled it off. So many things could have gotten in our way like personality clashes, style differences, food, money, alcohol and drugs or any other number of things that divide people. But the winds were right, and we got along like a dream. The whole thing feels like a dream to me now that I am grounded again, still riding my bike, but not forging new paths like we were on the tour. Is there some force of nature that is bringing eco-minded people together to demonstrate real social change? After what I experienced on the gasfast tour, it does not surprise me that a new

☞TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS KILL MORE AMERICANS EACH YEAR THAN GUNS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THEY ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICANS 2 TO 24

MORE COLLECTIVIZING... RIOT FOLK!

WHAT IS THIS COLLECTIVE STUFF YOU SPEAK OF?

collectives come in all shapes and sizes; housing collectives, film collectives, sex toy collectives, child care collectives, book collectives, bee-keeping collectives, collectively owned businesses, media collectives, bike collectives, car-sharing collectives, food-growing collectives, etc.

collectives can be as informal as a potluck where there are simple agreed upon terms— you bring a dish and therefore reap th benefit of indulging in other attendees dishes. or collectives can be as formal as a collective community center with finances, long-ter planning, neighborhood support, outreach, rehab and carpentry work, and resource management...just to name a few elements.

collectives are based on the idea that working together is mutually beneficial to each member rather than working in competition with each other (a commonly revered capitalist notior competition does not leave room for collaboration or solidarity, it limits the potential of individuals by discouraging the exploration c cooperative achievement and collective interest. competition also overlooks the individual needs people have according to their own abilities. overall, working together for a mutual interest beats working alone for the sake of one's own benefit.

WHAT IS RIOT FOLK?

riot folk began as an idea floating around the ears of some radical musicians in the summer of 2004. with the aid of modern technology, word of mouth, and mutual friends— a small group of folks had a chance to explore this idea and become a part of creatin a radical music collective. kate boverman, ryan harvey, tom frampton, brenna sahatjian, mark gunnery, ethan miller, evan gree and i had been dreaming for months about this project before we had our first conference call , setting the tone for a cooperative, trusting, communicative group that we would commit to working with and supporting through the collective.

- thistle and i shared the money we made at shows in a collective fund that we would spend on our collective food and gear.
- we split our music sets by playing several songs each and then switching so there wasn't a power dynamic set up by who went first or last.
- we would collaborate on songs and teach each other new songs.
- thistle and i started a skillshare—she would help me learn more spanish and i would teach her some songs and other random skills.

by sharing responsibilities collectively and mutually benefiting from each other and the tour, we were able to get a lot done without one person carrying the load and make sure that no one's opinions or feelings were being overlooked.

this is a fairly ideal representation of consensus, mutual aid, and collectivizing and this process can be pretty rough with more folks, differing opinions, and high tension circumstances.

thistle and i became good at clearly communicating with each other and by a month into the tour we were able to voice a lot of insecurities and personal information that helped us understand where the other person was coming from. we checked in with each other a lot and tried to be conscious of the physical and emotional state of our travel partner.

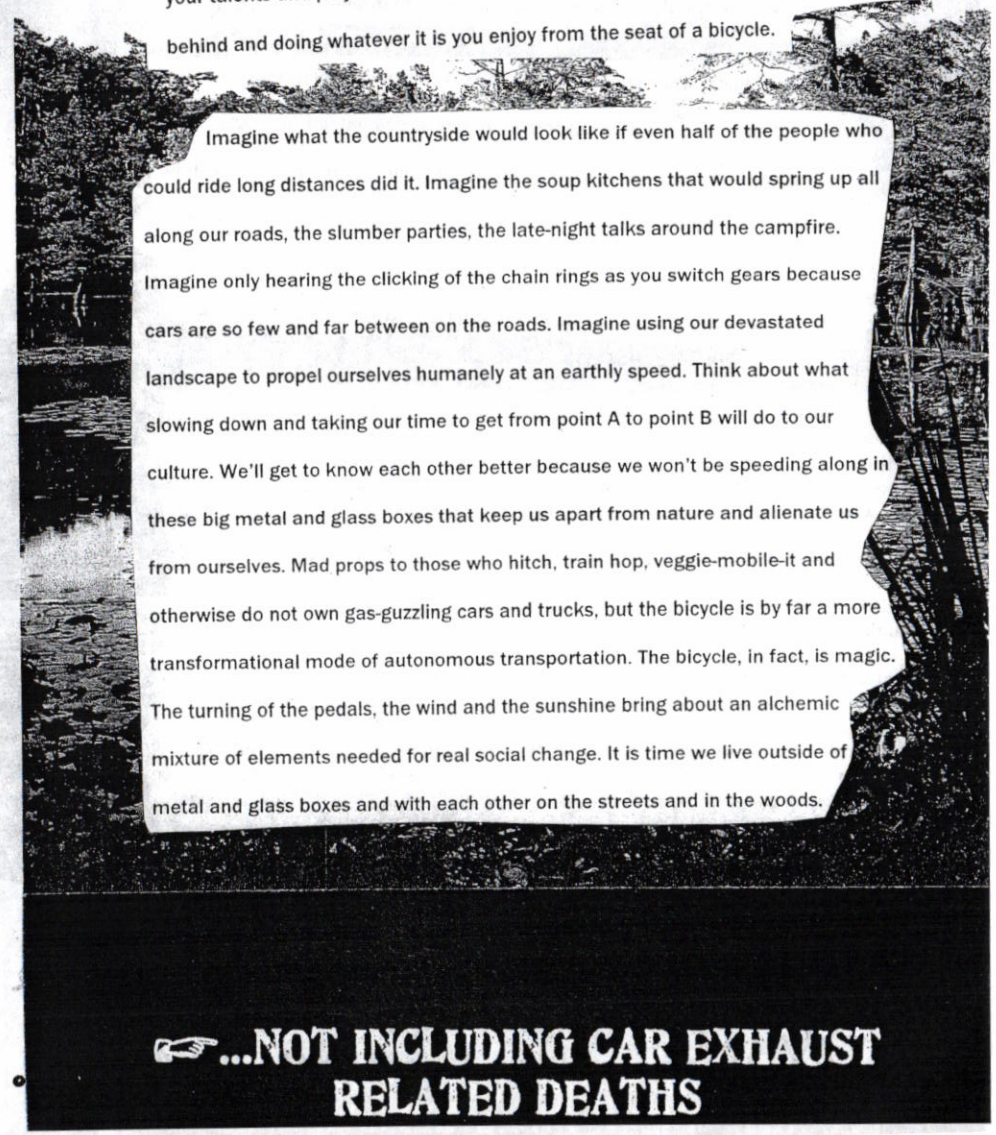
thistle and i were very lucky that we got along with each other and were able to create a supportive environment to practice mutual aid and collectivizing. bike tours are nice because unlike other tours where folks are crammed into a vehicle, the time spent traveling on a bike tour is also time for self-reflection. taking space for yourself is easy on a bicycle. the gasfast tour made me a much more pleasant person to deal with because i was altogether happier and more content, and i don't know if working together collectively would be as easy if we were touring any other way.

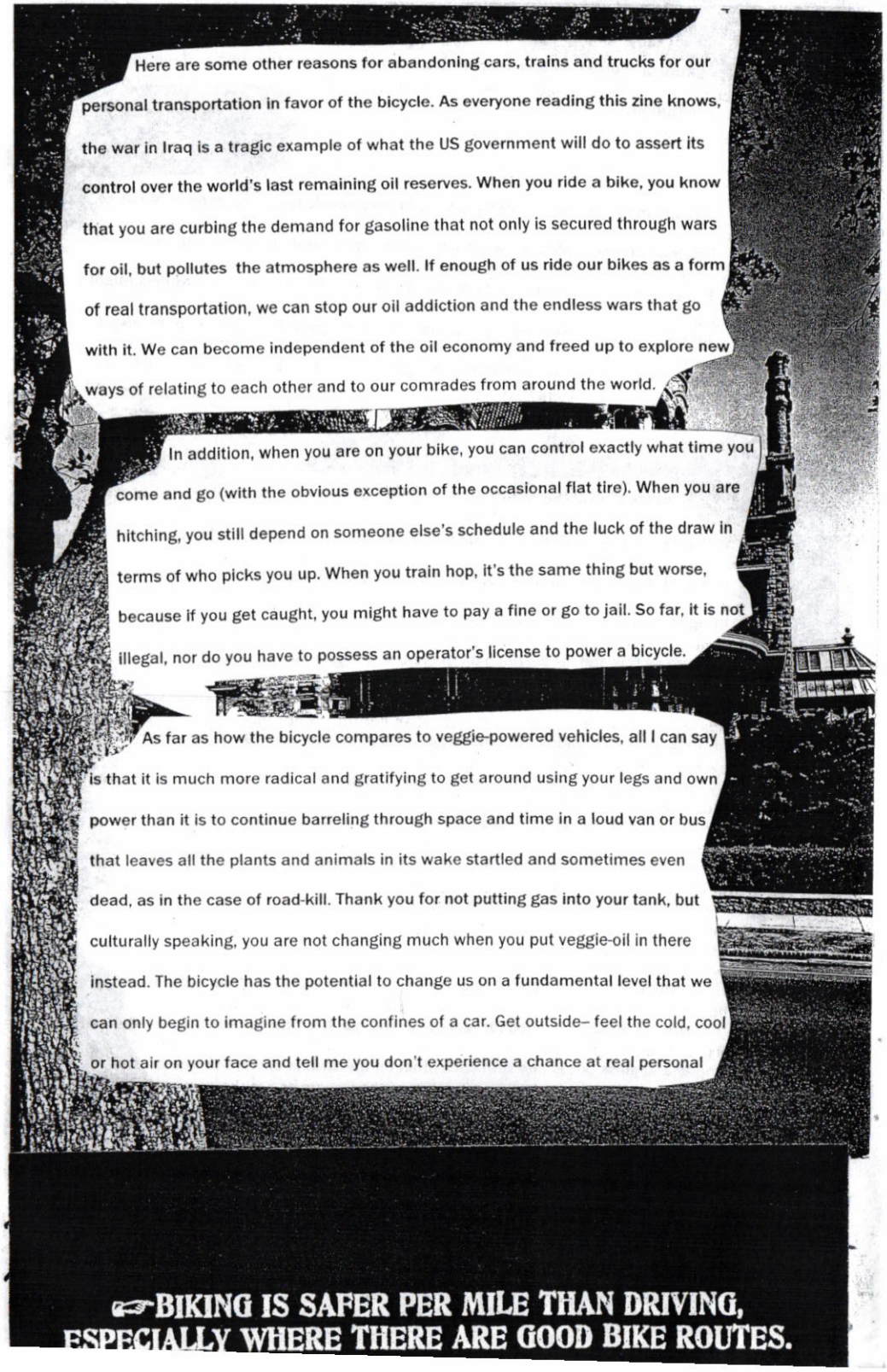


culture of mutual aid and cooperation is emerging from the rubble of our failed civilization.

So I would like to share experiences from bike/music tours I've done in hopes of inspiring others to plan tours of their own. Keeping that in mind, I don't think you have to be a musician to start riding your bike to wherever your two wheels might take you. I hope these writings stimulate your own creativity and thoughts about your talents and projects that are uniquely yours but that include leaving car-culture behind and doing whatever it is you enjoy from the seat of a bicycle.

Imagine what the countryside would look like if even half of the people who could ride long distances did it. Imagine the soup kitchens that would spring up all along our roads, the slumber parties, the late-night talks around the campfire. Imagine only hearing the clicking of the chain rings as you switch gears because cars are so few and far between on the roads. Imagine using our devastated landscape to propel ourselves humanely at an earthly speed. Think about what slowing down and taking our time to get from point A to point B will do to our culture. We'll get to know each other better because we won't be speeding along in these big metal and glass boxes that keep us apart from nature and alienate us from ourselves. Mad props to those who hitch, train hop, veggie-mobile-it and otherwise do not own gas-guzzling cars and trucks, but the bicycle is by far a more transformational mode of autonomous transportation. The bicycle, in fact, is magic. The turning of the pedals, the wind and the sunshine bring about an alchemic mixture of elements needed for real social change. It is time we live outside of metal and glass boxes and with each other on the streets and in the woods.





BIG WORDS: MUTUAL AID & COLLECTIVIZING

the gastfast tour was a collective effort between thistle and i to plan and carry out a safe, fun, financially sustainable bike ride of a tour! thistle and i reaped countless benefits from the tour including

- expanding our audience
- promoting our music and ideas
- helping our bodies stay healthy
- having places to stay for free
- meeting new people
- being rejuvenated by the land around us
- receiving free bike maintenance
- raising enough funds to feed us on our trip
- learning about the land and people and bike touring

we also shared what we could by

- playing benefit shows to raise money for organizations
- educating folks thorough our lyrics
- performing our songs for little to no money
- becoming a presence at political actions in towns we biked through
- sharing our stories and information with the people we met
- supporting other musicians and activists along the way

the tour was a balance of giving and receiving. it was mutually beneficia to thistle and i and the folks that we met throughout our travels. we alsc tried to make sure that the work we were doing was balanced as well. ir the beginning, we decided that all decisions would be made by consensu (where all parties involved would come to an agreement about the decision) and we would split up responsibilities accordingly.

- i would book shows in the places i had contacts in and thistle would find venues in other places.
- thistle contributed the logo and made the silkscreen while i made demo CD to mail to our contacts with a friendly note.
- we split up the load according to how much our rig could haul.
- we shared cooking, routing, fliering, and other logistical responsibilities.

once traveling around 4 miles per year, they are now moving twice as fast. While it is possible that increased precipitation in northern Greenland is somehow compensating for the melting in the south, the scientists said that is unlikely.

There are many ways warming might be causing glaciers to accelerate. The scientists said increased temperatures may loosen the grip that glaciers have on underlying bedrock, or melt away floating shelves on the shore that can hold ice in place.

Whatever the mechanism, the phenomenon seems widespread. At a news conference organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its annual meeting in St. Louis, glacier scientists Vladimir Aizen from the University of Idaho and Gino Casassa, of Chile's Centro de Estudios Cientificos, said they were seeing the same thing happen to glaciers in the Himalayas and in South America.

"Glaciers have retreated systematically and in an accelerated fashion in the last few decades," Casassa said. One glacier that provided Bolivia with its only ski slope five years ago has splintered into three and cannot be used for skiing, the scientist added.

Rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers also raises concerns for the large portion of humanity that gets its fresh water from glacier-fed rivers in South Asia, Aizen noted.

Most climate scientists believe a major cause for Earth's warming climate is increased emissions of greenhouse gases as a result of burning fossil fuels, largely in wealthy, industrialized nations such as the United States and in Western Europe, but increasingly in rapidly developing nations such as China and India as well. Carbon dioxide and several other gases trap the sun's heat and raise atmospheric temperature.

"This study underscores the need to take swift, meaningful actions at home and abroad to address climate change," said Vicki Arroyo, director of policy analysis at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

The data highlights the lack of meaningful U.S. policy, she added: "This is the kind of study that should make people stay awake at night wondering what we're doing to the climate, how we're shaping the planet for future generations and, especially, what we can do about it."

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, YOU SWIM UPSTREAM AND IT IS HARD GOING AGAINST THE CURRENT.

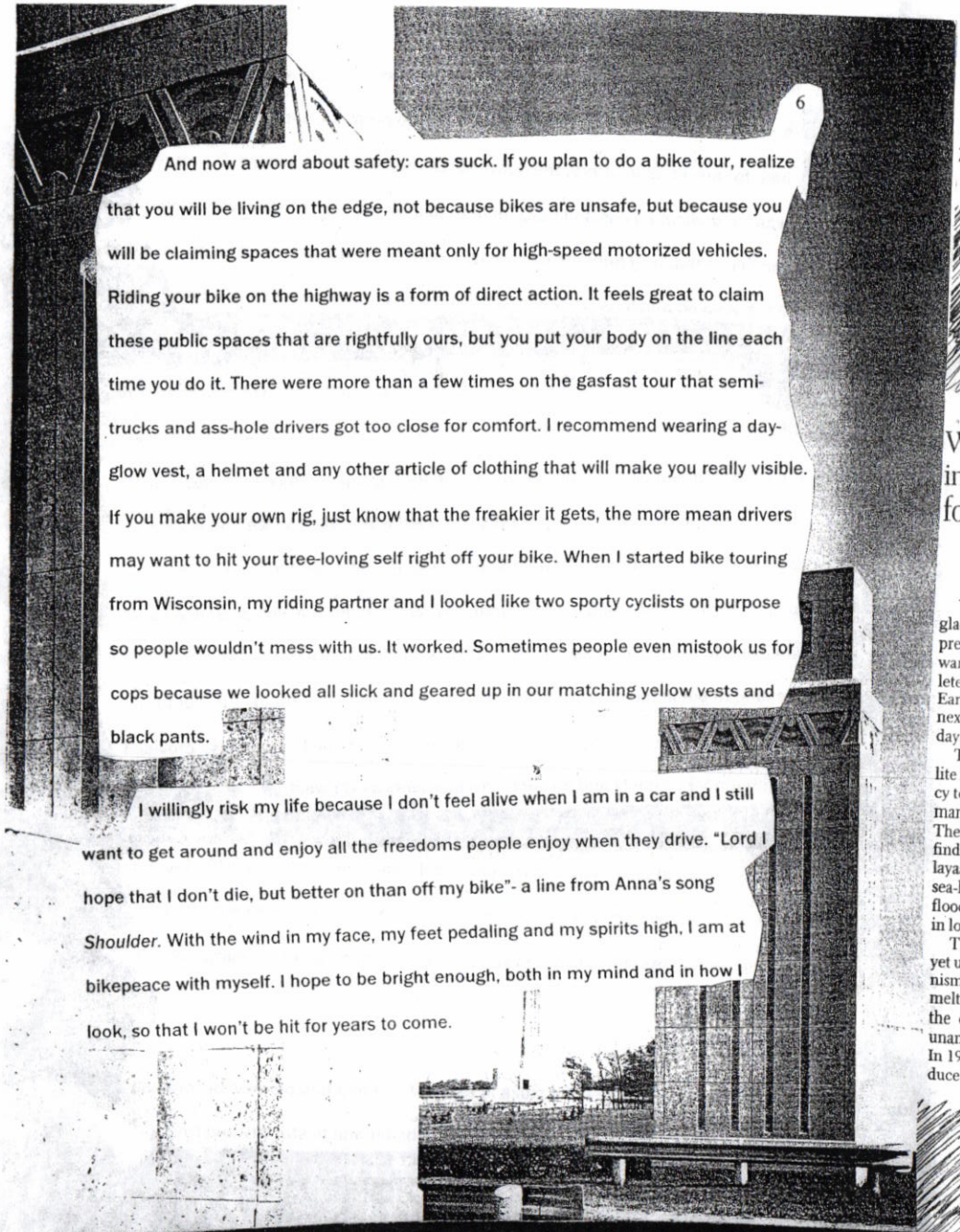
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU MY DEAR COMRADE. THROUGH THE DISTANCE, THE HURRICANES, DARKNESS AND THROUGH NATURE. I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WALK UP ON A RIDGE AND LOOK OUT INTO THE NIGHT SKY. TO FEEL THE FULL SPECTRUM OF MOONLIGHT ON MY FACE AND TO LOOK OVER AT YOURS, GLOWING HEALTHY AND STRONG. LET'S LOVE AND RAGE WITH HONESTY, THOUGHT AND COURAGE.

liberation. The personal is political. If enough of us ride, we will be setting ourselves free collectively in addition to personally. Not to mention, once gas prices are too high for any of us to afford, the demand for veggie oil will increase. Do we really want to dedicate fields and fields of land to growing plants to fuel obnoxious machines that only humans can enjoy? I have never hit an animal on my bike, but have seen so much road-kill across this land that it makes my head spin.

So there you have it: the case for bicycle transportation. I will now move onto the way that Anna and I planned for the gasfast tour. Basically all we did was use the computer and our cell phones to arrange for gigs up and down the west coast before we met in Seattle to do the ride. I googled words like "peace and justice", "anti-war" and "green" paired with the names of the cities and towns we were going to pass through and found contacts that way. We both have a web presence so you can listen to our music online. Potential hosts could hear what we sound like before deciding to put in the effort to help us organize a show which made it better for us and for them. Riot Folk, the musicians collective I mentioned earlier, also provided us with ample contacts and housing arrangements as we went.

A word about gear: however you procure it; make sure you have what it takes to keep you warm and dry at night. On any long-distance, car-free bike tour, there will be nights in between towns when you just have to stop and make camp. We carried sleeping bags, a tent, some food and cooking equipment, rain gear, warm clothes, water and a first aid kit. I was always comfortable because I had thought about what it would be like to be stuck in the cold rain and had planned accordingly. It is empowering to create your own make-shift shelter and to stay dry and free outside of a house or hotel too.

☞BESIDES, IF ALL TRY TO PROTECT OURSELVES INDIVIDUALLY RATHER THAN COLLECTIVELY, WE'LL END UP DRIVING ARMY TANKS!



6

And now a word about safety: cars suck. If you plan to do a bike tour, realize that you will be living on the edge, not because bikes are unsafe, but because you will be claiming spaces that were meant only for high-speed motorized vehicles. Riding your bike on the highway is a form of direct action. It feels great to claim these public spaces that are rightfully ours, but you put your body on the line each time you do it. There were more than a few times on the gasfast tour that semi-trucks and ass-hole drivers got too close for comfort. I recommend wearing a day-glow vest, a helmet and any other article of clothing that will make you really visible. If you make your own rig, just know that the freakier it gets, the more mean drivers may want to hit your tree-loving self right off your bike. When I started bike touring from Wisconsin, my riding partner and I looked like two sporty cyclists on purpose so people wouldn't mess with us. It worked. Sometimes people even mistook us for cops because we looked all slick and geared up in our matching yellow vests and black pants.

I willingly risk my life because I don't feel alive when I am in a car and I still want to get around and enjoy all the freedoms people enjoy when they drive. "Lord I hope that I don't die, but better on than off my bike"- a line from Anna's song *Shoulder*. With the wind in my face, my feet pedaling and my spirits high, I am at bikepeace with myself. I hope to be bright enough, both in my mind and in how I look, so that I won't be hit for years to come.

☞BIKE LANES CAN MOVE 2 TO 6 TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE PER HOUR AS THE SAME AREA OF PAVEMENT DEVOTED TO CARS!

A14 San Francisco Chronicle ☆☆☆☆☆

Alarming data on

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Greenland's glaciers

Warming trend indicates faster rise for Earth's oceans

By Shankar Vedantam
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Greenland's glaciers are melting twice as fast as previously believed, the result of a warming trend that renders obsolete predictions of how quickly the Earth's oceans will rise over the next century, scientists said Thursday.

The new data come from satellite imagery and gives fresh urgency to worries about the role of human activity in global warming. The Greenland data is mirrored by findings from Bolivia to the Himalayas, scientists said, noting that sea-level rise threatens widespread flooding and severe storm damage in low-lying areas worldwide.

The scientists said they did not yet understand the precise mechanism causing glaciers to flow and melt more rapidly, but they said the changes in Greenland were unambiguous — and accelerating: In 1996, the amount of water produced by melting ice in Greenland was about 90 times the amount consumed by Los Angeles in a year. Last year, the melted ice amounted to 225 times the volume of water that L.A. uses annually.

"We are witnessing enormous changes, and it will take some time before we understand how it happened, although it is clearly a result of warming around the glaciers," said Eric Rignot, a scientist at the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Lab.

The Greenland study is the latest of several in recent months that have found evidence that rising temperatures are affecting not only Earth's ice sheets but such things as plant and animal habitats, the health of coral reefs, hurricane severity and droughts, and globe-girdling currents that drive regional climates.

The ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are among the largest reservoirs of fresh water on Earth, and their fate is expected to be a major factor in determining how much Earth's oceans will rise. Rignot and University of Kansas scientist Pannir Kanagaratnam, who published their findings Thursday in the journal Science, declined to guess how much the faster melting would raise sea levels but said current estimates of around 20 inches over the next century are probably too low.

While sea-level increases of a few feet may not sound like very much, they could have profound consequences on flood-prone countries such as Bangladesh and trigger severe weather around the world.

"The implications are global," said Julian Dowdeswell, a glacier expert at the University of Cambridge in England who revi
the new paper for Science. "W
not talking about walking
the sea front on a nice su
day, we are talking of the
storm settings, the biggest
surges . . . you are upping
probability major storms wil
place."

The study also highlights
seemingly small changes in
perature can have massive ef
Where glaciers in Greenland

Melting faster

A new study shows the melting of Greenland's southern glaciers has accelerated over the last decade and now contributes to the global rise in sea levels.

Ice loss of the Greenland Ice Sheet:

1996	21.8 cubic miles
2000	33.1
2005	53.7

Sources: Science, ESRI



Associat

THEY ACT SO SURPRISED.

WE KNEW ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE BACK IN THE 1980'S AND JUST KEPT ON DRIVING.

I WAS SHOCKED, DEVASTATED AND DISAPPOINTED THROUGHOUT THE 90'S. GETTING INTO A CAR ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE A DEATH WISH, A PROLONGED ACT OF COLLECTIVE SUICIDE.



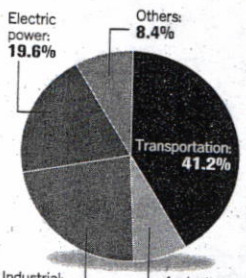
CARS

San Francisco Chronicle

-fgate.com FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006 415-777-1111

Climate changers

Sources of California's climate change emissions, 2002



Note: Expressed in terms of CO_2 equivalence (adapted from CEC, 2005)

Source: Governor's office

The Chronicle

I FINISHED MY PART OF THE GASFAST ZINE AND THEN CAME UPON THIS ISSUE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE.

IT'S LIKE ONE HAND IS CUTTING THE WRIST OF THE OTHER HAND FORCING OUR EYELIDS OPEN

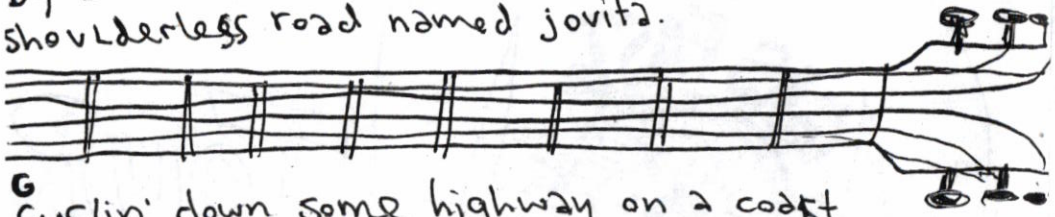


TOUR SHIRT

An amazing artist named Kara drew our logo that I made into a t-shirt design. We silk-screened it onto shirts we found or got for cheap at thrift stores. We sold them at our shows in addition to our cds.

THE Shoulder SONG by adhamh roland

i wrote this song in olympia after being spat on by a motorist between seattle and tacoma on a shoulderless road named jovita.

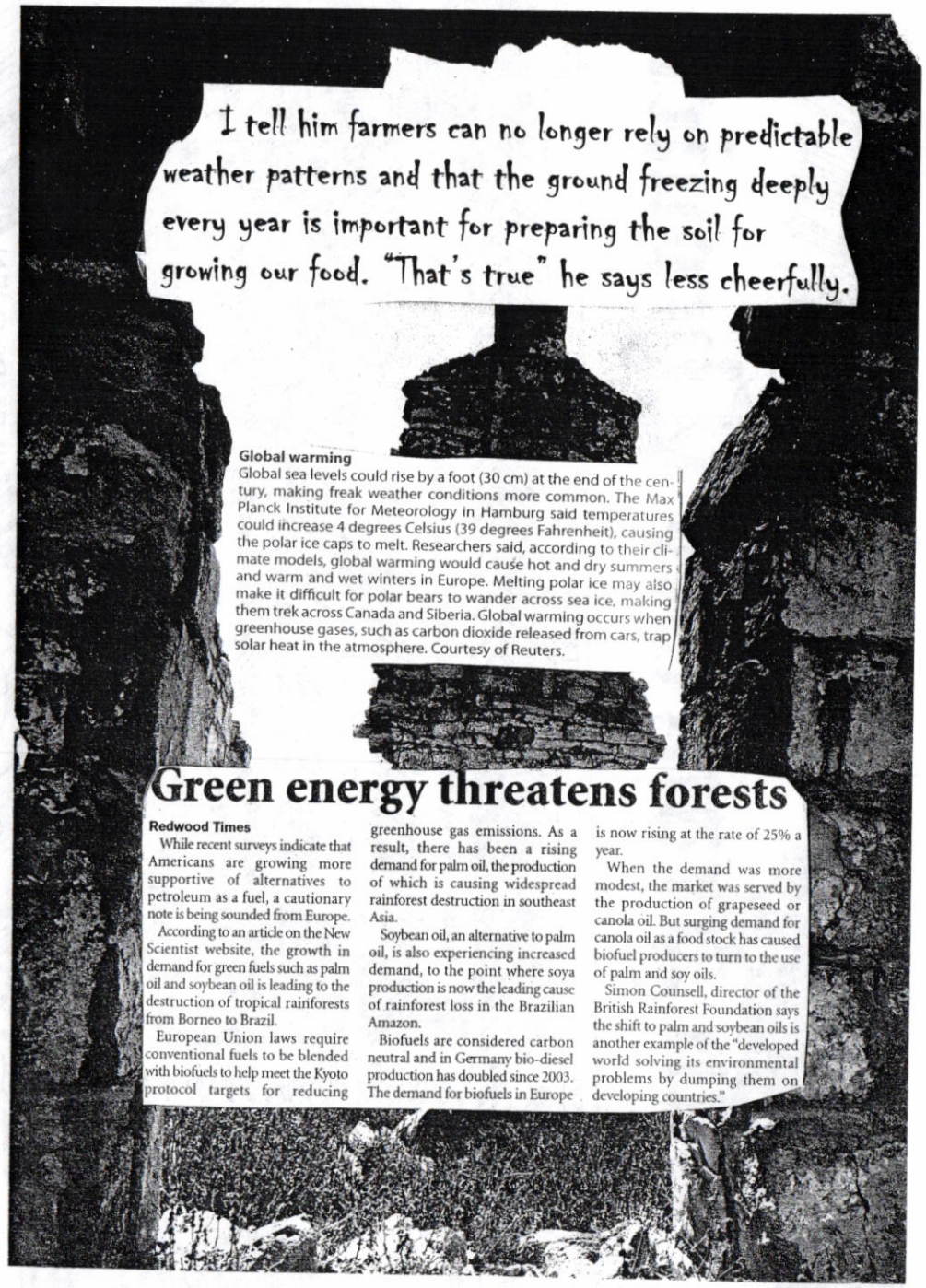


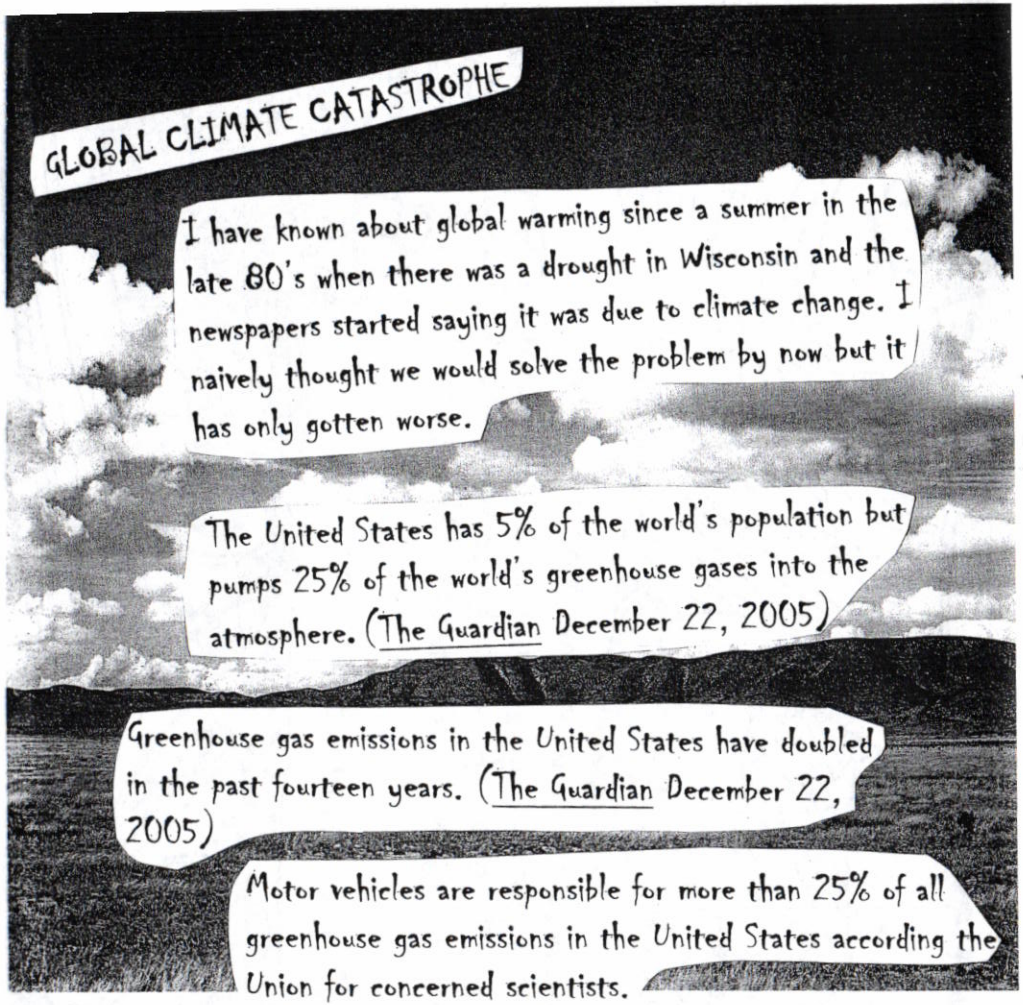
G
cyclin' down some highway on a coast
that's known for gold,
C G
in a country that i wish wasn't stolen long ago,
and i'm doing my best to subvert the oil economy,
C G
somedays the system does and some days it don't
work for me
C D G
some days it do, some days it don't
and today's a day it don't and it's quite ~~detrimental~~
detrimental
G
to my existence and my future potential
and there's one wish i wish so let it be told
C G
that i wish there was a Mother Fuckin' Shoulder
on this Road!

chorus: oh i wish there were a shoulder on this road
C G
oh i wish there were a shoulder on this road

D
1. no, i don't mean one to cry on
just one that i might not die on
i ~~wish~~ wish there were a shoulder on this road
2. humyns got 2 why is this the exception
my day glow vest is my only protection
G i wish there were a shoulder on this road

3. Lord i hope that i don't die but better on than
just tell my sweetheart when





When will this insanity stop? I am visiting Wisconsin right now for the Winter holidays and it is warm and foggy here but I feel chilled to the bone. My neighbor from my

childhood who is 72 years old now says: "Bring it on! Palm trees in Wisconsin—great!"

i go i loved her more than she would know
tell her not to feel sufferin' and pain,
cuz my life won't be in vein.
if there were just one shoulder, if only just one shoulder, A MOTHER FUCKIN' SHOULDER ON THIS ROAD!

verse#2: well, i've spent my time in those death machines, i know just how it feels
to be power trippin' hungry when you're behind the wheel
yes i do, oh yes i do
and those humyn powered vehicles that you are speedin' passed must seem like ants you used to burn with a magnifying glass
yes they do, i think they do
but now that you're grown up, and i'm sure you've much matured
your homicidal tendencies i hope have been deturred
i hope they have, i sure hope they have
but i can't trust that you've forgotten all the habbits you once knowed
and ~~I WISH THERE WAS A~~
~~MOTHER FUCKING~~
SHOULDER ON THIS ROAD!

CHORUS

i'm inhalin' your exhaust and riskin' my own ass
just so i don't support a messed up war
bein' fought for gas
yes i am, oh yes i am
but i'm not tryin' to toot my own horn
cuz, well, i DON'T GOT oNE
i'm just sayin' resistance can be beautiful
but right now it's not fun
No it ain't. oh no it ain't
and we wouldn't need a wider lane
if not for your wide load

aNd i wish there was a MOTHER Fucking SHOULDER on this road!

CHORUS





'Radical folk singers' to perform in Klipsan

KLIPSAN BEACH — Anna and Thistle Roland are biking down the Pacific Coast. They bill themselves as radical folk singers. They call their crusade "Gasfast," and they are preaching a gospel of energy independence.

They previously biked from Minnesota to New Orleans along the Mississippi River. On Aug. 3, they will sing at a beach bonfire in front of 24211 Pacific Way at the home of Frank and Nancy Logan. The public is invited. There is no fee and their CDs will be on sale.

People who wish to attend should bring their own drinks and snacks, a blanket, chairs, musical instruments, and a determination to have fun in a hassle-free environment. They should also be prepared to walk seven hundred feet to the beach or, if you are a beach driver, please park away from the fire. For more information call 665-0552.

Folk musician activists pedal into Astoria

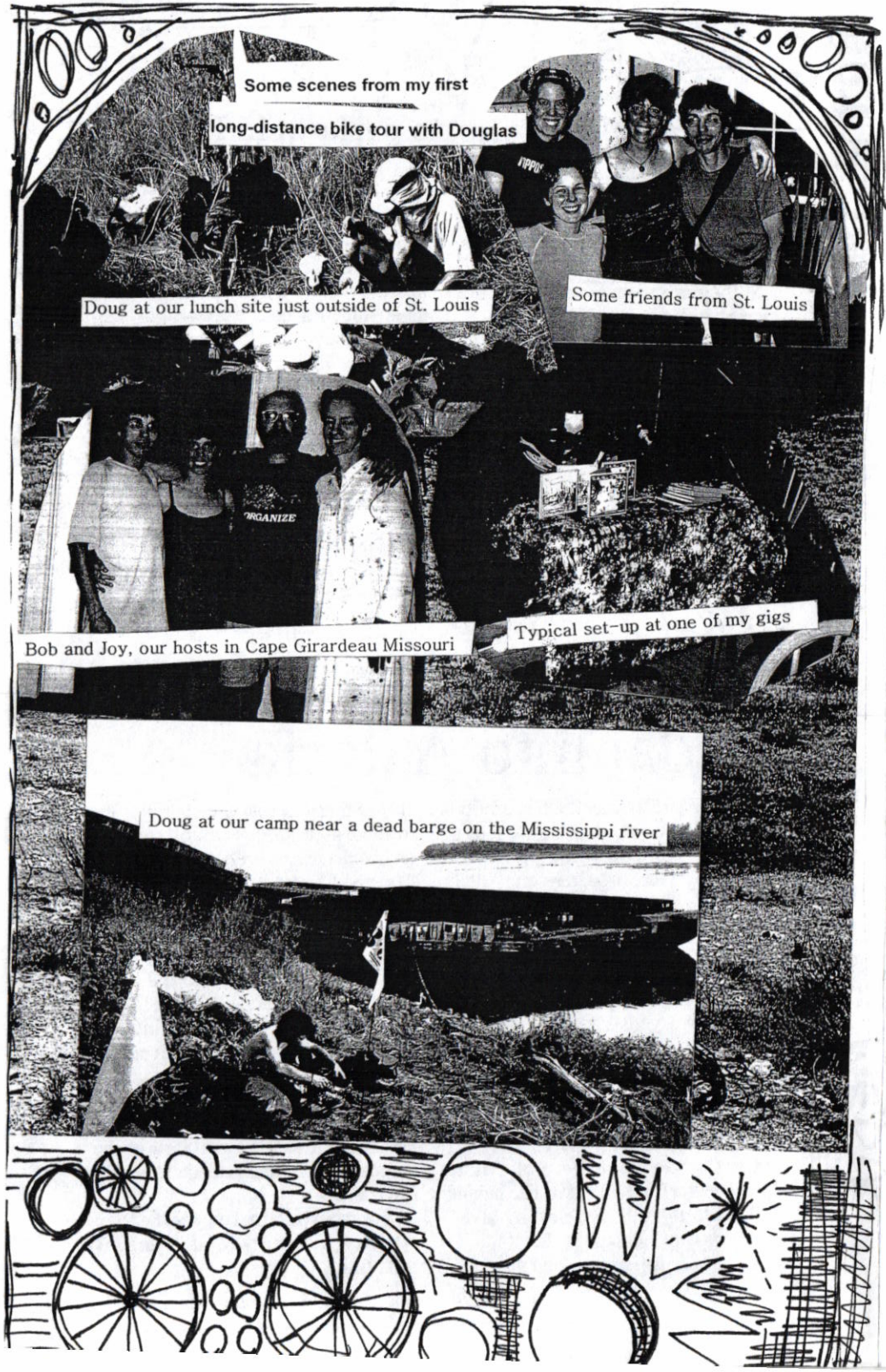
Gas Fast Summer 2005 is a 1,000-mile bike ride and folk music tour of the Northwest, featuring performers including radical singer-songwriters Kristine "Thistle" and Anna Roland. The duo is committed to social justice, peace, economic justice and defending the earth. They will bicycle from Ocean Park, Wash., to Astoria Thursday. Cyclists are encouraged to join them at 6:30 p.m. on the Washington side of the Astoria Bridge and cross with them.

Thistle began making music as a 2-year-old, riding on the back of her father's bicycle as he took her to preschool. He said, "It was like having a little bird on the back of my bike." She was influenced by her father's choice of transportation and now pedals her music across the country. She trained as a singer in college and received a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Michigan. She left the university and dedicated herself to activism.

Anna Roland says, "Music is what has inspired my politics since the first time I heard Ani DiFranco's 'son Fuel.'" She released a self-titled album in 2003.

The two will be featured on KMUN/KTCB from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday Folk. On Sunday, they will perform at Mother Nature's Natural Foods at Howell's Courtyard at the corner of Third and Laneda streets in Manzanita.

For more information, see the Web site: www.annaroland.com/gasfast.html



HaulIN' yer LOAD...

panniers bags that attatch to a front or rear rack like saddlebags. you can buy them for a pretty penny in several sizes. panniers can have rain covers and can cram a bunch of stuff on your bike so you don' have to worry about bringing extra tires for a trailor, it can be easier to maneuver with panniers too if they're packed evenly.

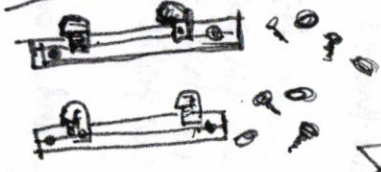
i traveled with some cheap rear panniers with ~~*~~ built in rain covers and made my own SQUARE bucket panniers to put on my front rack.

MAKING YOUR OWN PANNIERS



bucket panniers - as soon as i started pedaling with my full load around seattle i realized i needed to even my weight on my bike. i had everything loaded into my rear panniers which ended up breaking my back breaks and messing up my rear wheel so i looked up how to make my own panniers online. i found the hook attatchment kit at www.panniers.com. the kit was $20 but you could probably find some materials at a hardware store. we were lucky enough to be staying @ a house in long beach, WA that had a shop with tools. i found the buckets by calling around to some sea food restaurants. inless than an hour i had my own waterproof, front panniers that could also be used as a seat, a cutting board, a water hauling device, a card table etc.

ALUMINUM HOOK KIT



THIS IS WHAT THE FRONT OF MY BYKE LOOKED LIKE



after i made the panniers i spray painted the GASFAST

you can find more detailed directions by searching ONLINE...

thistle carried the guitar

and the floor pump, and the tent, and the stove, and the pots and pans, and the first aid kit, and pretty much all of our communal stuff. thanks THISTLE!

XTRACYCLE: An extention that works as shelves to carry a bunch of STUFF!

THISTLE HAD AN XTRACYCLE WITH 2 SHELVES ON EACH SIDE OF HER REAR WHEEL AND A PEICE OF WOOD IN BETWEEN THE SHE LOADED EASY ACCESS STUFF ON.

gear on the other side of the xtra cycle

backpack

guitar case

rear mirror

feathers and talismans

front rack

3rd cycle attatchment

xtracycle

guitar case made out of car bumper material

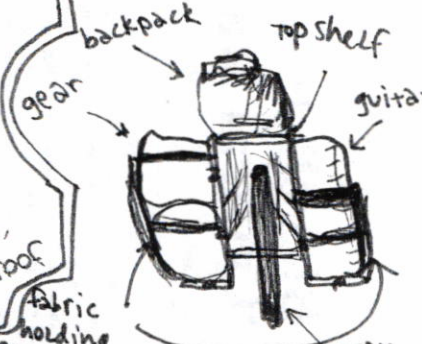
BAD ASS tires! they were really fat... i don't know what kind though

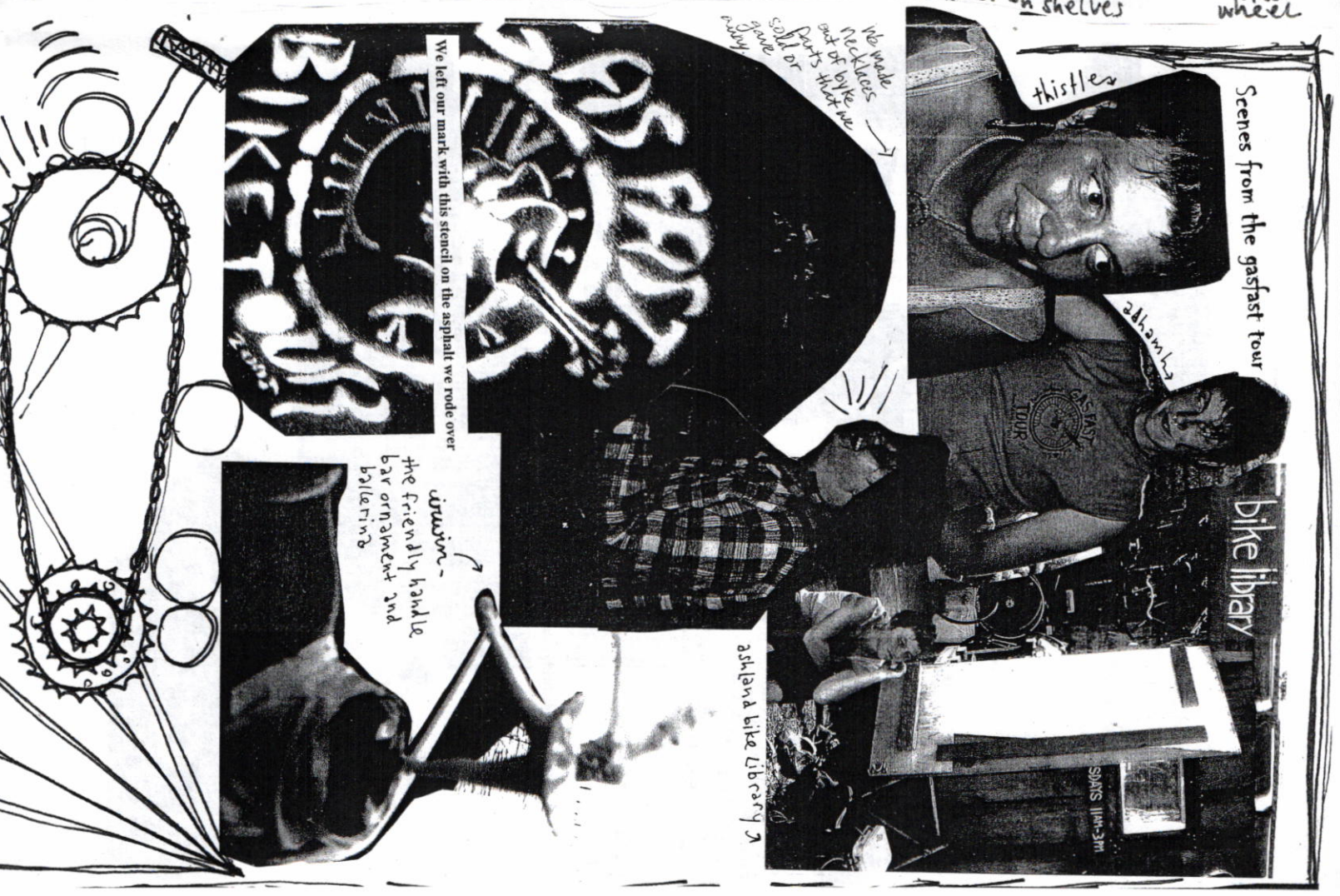
pedals ~~with~~ for clipless shoes

Nice, expencive, weather proof PANNIERS

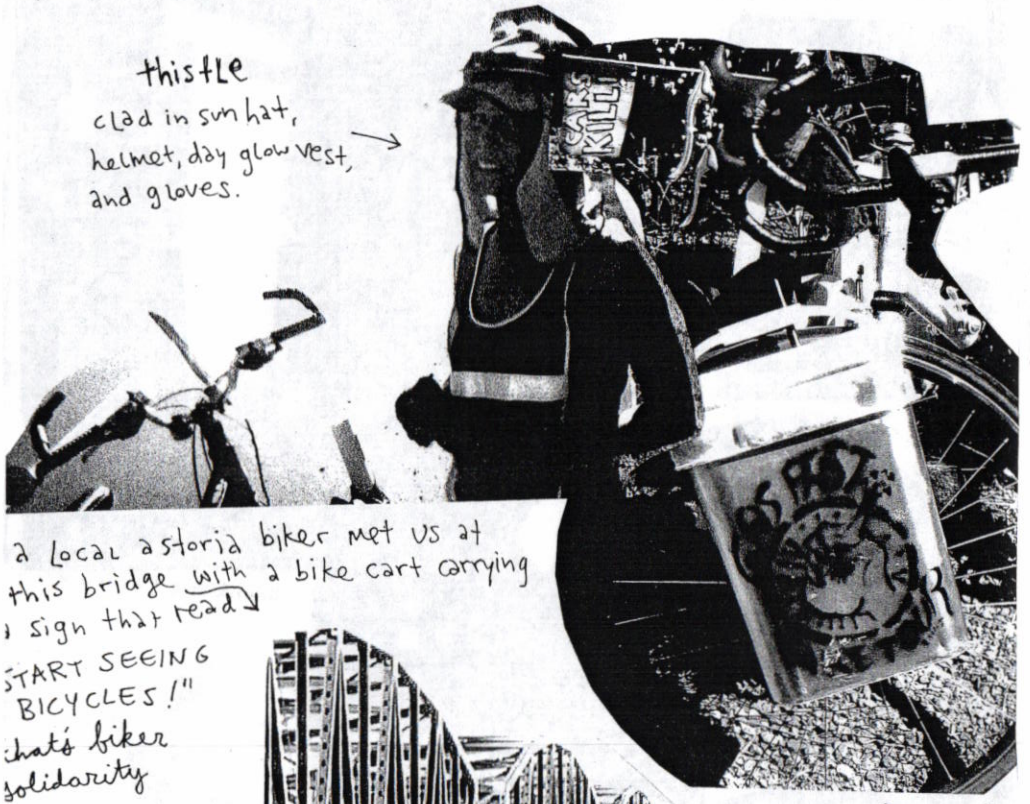
THISTLE HAD A MOUNTAIN BIKE WE CALLED "RED". RED WAS COVERED IN STICKERS AND HAD REALLY NICE SHOCKS + HILL CLIMBING GEARS. RED HAD BEEN W/ THISTLE FOR YEARS + THOUSANDS OF MILES.

A REAR VIEW OF THE XTRACYCLE





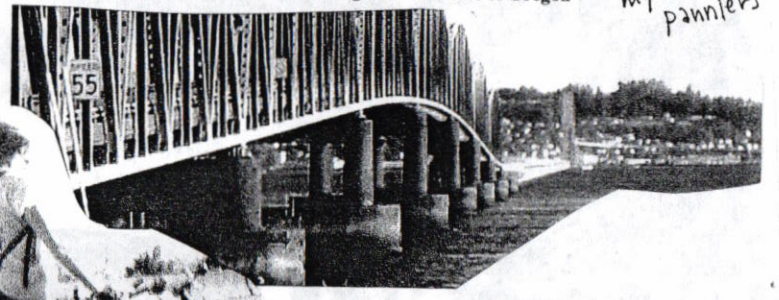
thistle
clad in sun hat, helmet, day glow vest, and gloves.



a local astoria biker met us at this bridge with a bike cart carrying a sign that read "START SEEING BICYCLES!" that's biker solidarity

Four mile long bridge that took us from the state of Washington to the state of Oregon

my bucket panniers



adhamh



Bicyclists participate in 'Critical Mass'

Continue on Page 42

Elise Castle
Staff writer

The Arcata Co-op parking lot was transformed last Friday into a convergence of bikes and their riders as the phenomenon known as "Critical Mass," descended upon the public.

For many riders it would be their first Critical Mass participation, with bikes and riders of all various shapes, ages and sizes.

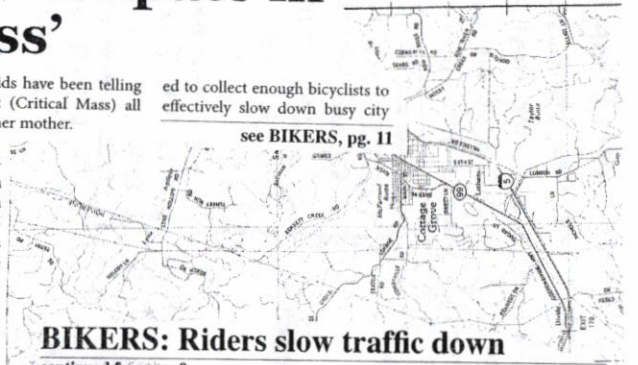
Sienna, a 12-year-old Arcata resident, attended the ride with her mother and younger brothers.

"My bike is only an hour old," she said, proudly displaying her brand-new Specialized mountain bike. "My kids have been telling me about it (Critical Mass) all week," said her mother.

Critical Mass originated in San Francisco in 1992, following a series of auto/bike accidents in which riders were injured or killed.

Intended as a memorial to fellow bikers, Critical Mass attempted to collect enough bicyclists to effectively slow down busy city

see BIKERS, pg. 11



BIKERS: Riders slow traffic down

continued from pg. 9

traffic and call attention to the rights of riders.

A handful of bikers had since turned into a synchronized event in which thousands of bicyclists take over the streets in cities and towns across the nation and globally, from bike messengers in Seattle to road cyclists in Italy.

According to "Thistle," a local bicy commuter and activist, The Republic National Convention in New York City 2004, for instance, spawned a Critical M involving almost 8,000 riders.

Following in spirit of previous Criti Masses, the Arcata ride was announc by word-of-mouth and flyers provided Thistle and her friends.

Critical Mass is an event, not an organization, and no permits or licenses are required. The Arcata ride circled the Plaza a couple of times and headed up G Street, where it grew in number from joining bicyclists and turned towards the HSU campus.

The riders rallied at the quad and headed back into the town aquare after riding on the freeway for a short interval, pleased with themselves for causing traffic to slow down.

As many as 60 bikers participated in the ride, which eventually ended up at the intersection of Giuntoli Lane and James Road, where 40 riders were followed by 20 cars.

Most of the vehicles following the riders followed patiently, with only a few road-ragers swerving around the riders, who were occupying the entire right lane of traffic.

Some bicyclists "pedaled for peace," some were protesting gas prices and championing clean air, and others just happened to find themselves with a bike at the right place and the right time.

Traffic laws were followed, and the event ran smoothly. Pedestrians and motorists alike cheered on the riders. The next Critical Mass will be a Halloween event, held on the last Friday of the month. For more information about Critical Mass, visit **www.critical-mass.org or www.critical-mass.info.**

Elise Castle can be reached at **emc34@humboldt.edu**

from the Lumberjack student newspaper in Arcata. October '05



Elise Castle

Riders on the freeway

CRITICAL MASS

After the gasfast tour is over, I decide to explore the town of Arcata where they have a lovely community bike shop called the bike library. I ask around and there hasn't been a critical mass bike ride in Arcata for a year so I start organizing one for the end of September. It was easy.

I made a flyer that said:

ARCATA CRITICAL MASS

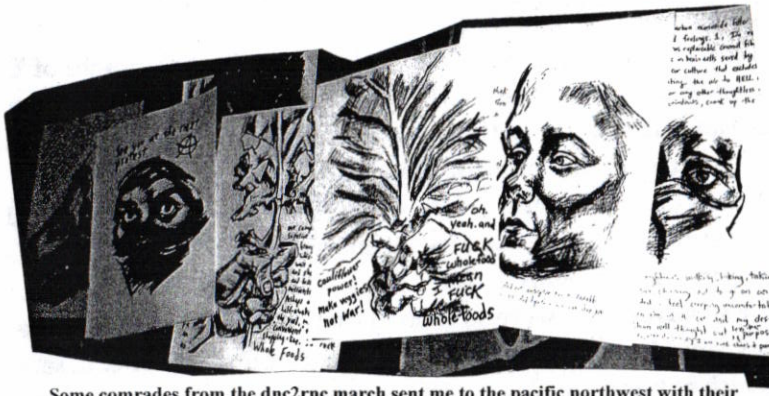
What is it? A bike ride that challenges common notions of space and time in a car-driven world. A ride that is done simultaneously all over the West Coast the last Friday of every month.

Why do we do it? To be together in a way that is truly free and easy, the way life is supposed to be. To say "no" to wars for oil and the pollution caused by automobiles.

Then all I did was pass the flier around and put up posters. I made sure to put the flier on all the bikes parked at the University. At least 45 people showed up for the ride and it sparked a new interest in critical mass. It seems like people are ready to build a new culture that counters the car culture. If it was this easy to organize a critical mass ride in a town that I knew almost nothing about, think about how easily we could get people to give up their cars in favor of bykes if the televisions and radios and magazines made it look like fun (which it is). Imagine how fast we could change our culture if for every car commercial, there was a bike commercial on TV (though I abhor capitalism). Imagine how fast people would get on their bikes if a massive critical mass rode through town every week instead of every month. Think about how many people would ride if there were safe-from-cars bike lanes and paths for every road that is built for cars.

One more thing I did was to make sure we had a gathering spot for after the ride so we could process as a group how we think things went and so we could have a good time. We had a campfire at a food-not-bombs house afterwards where the music and the spirits inspired us to keep dreaming, keep riding and keep building community with each other.

☞MAKING A SMALL CAR TAKES ROUGHLY AN EIGHTH AS MUCH ENERGY AS THE CAR WILL USE DURING ITS NINE-YEAR LIFETIME.

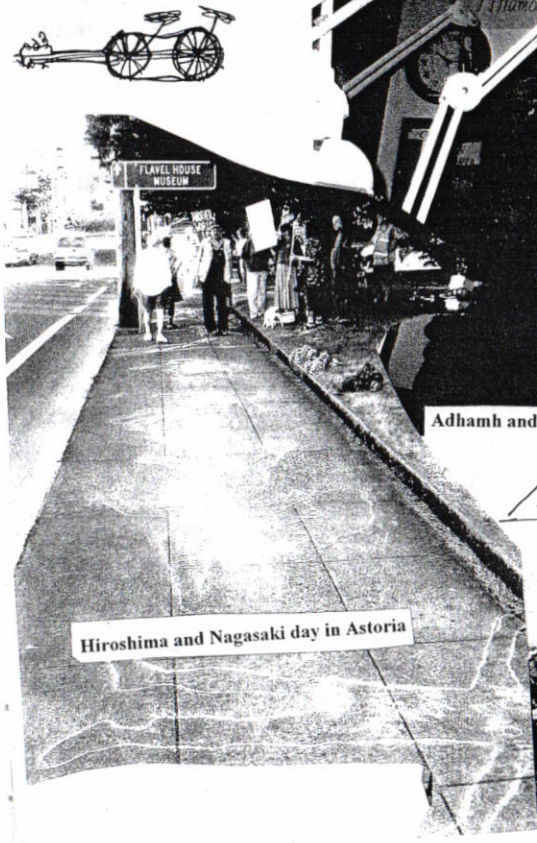


Some comrades from the dnc2rnc march sent me to the pacific northwest with their sketches to give out at shows

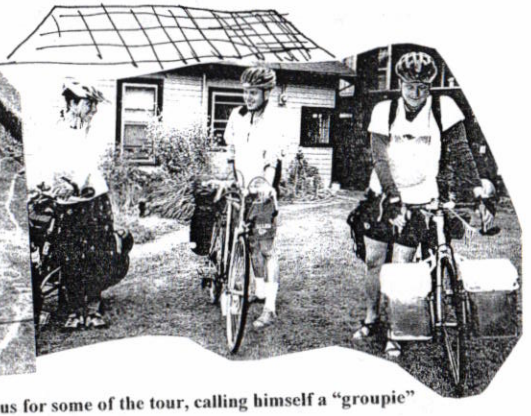


thistle carbon fiber guitar

Adhamh and Thistle play on the community radio station in Astoria



Hiroshima and Nagasaki day in Astoria



A kid from Oympia joined us for some of the tour, calling himself a "groupie"

BOOKING AND PROMO

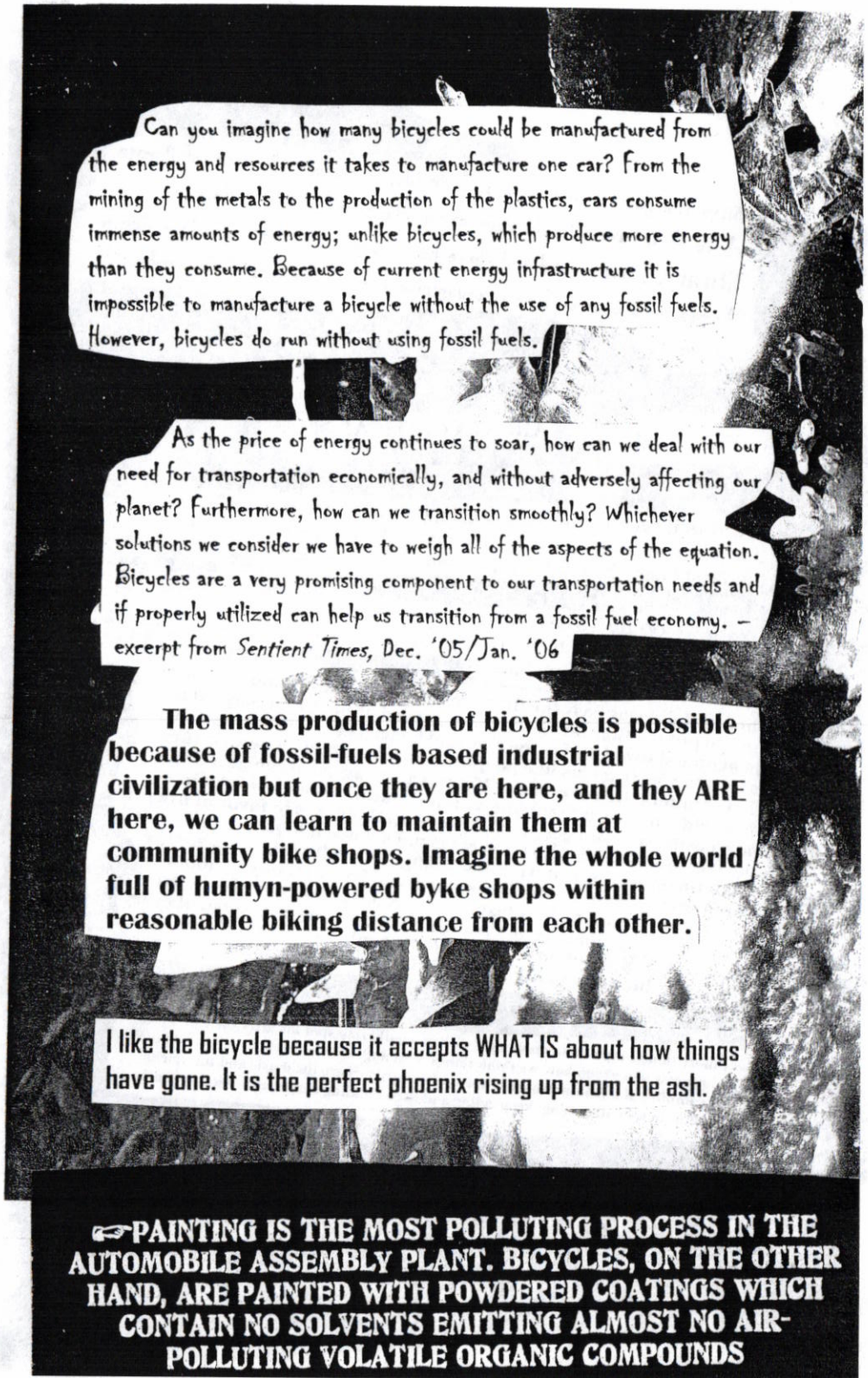
i had booked and promoted a cross-country music tour in the summer of '04 and had gone on several music tours in the northwest with my comrades and friends in the riot folk collective. the booking and promotion for the gasfast tour was done mostly on the internet. thistle and i split up the job and i booked in places i had performed before while thistle searched for radical organizations, unitarian churches, and peace and justice centers that would set up shows for us in smaller towns. in some cases, we were in very close contact with complete strangers that were so excited that we were stopping in their town that they would compose epic emails about their lives and offer to set up shows along with put us up in their house and feed us. other shows were more casually planned, and we ended up getting triple booked in portland at a coffee shop. some of the best shows where set up last minute as the people we met would tell their friends or family about us and they would set up shows.

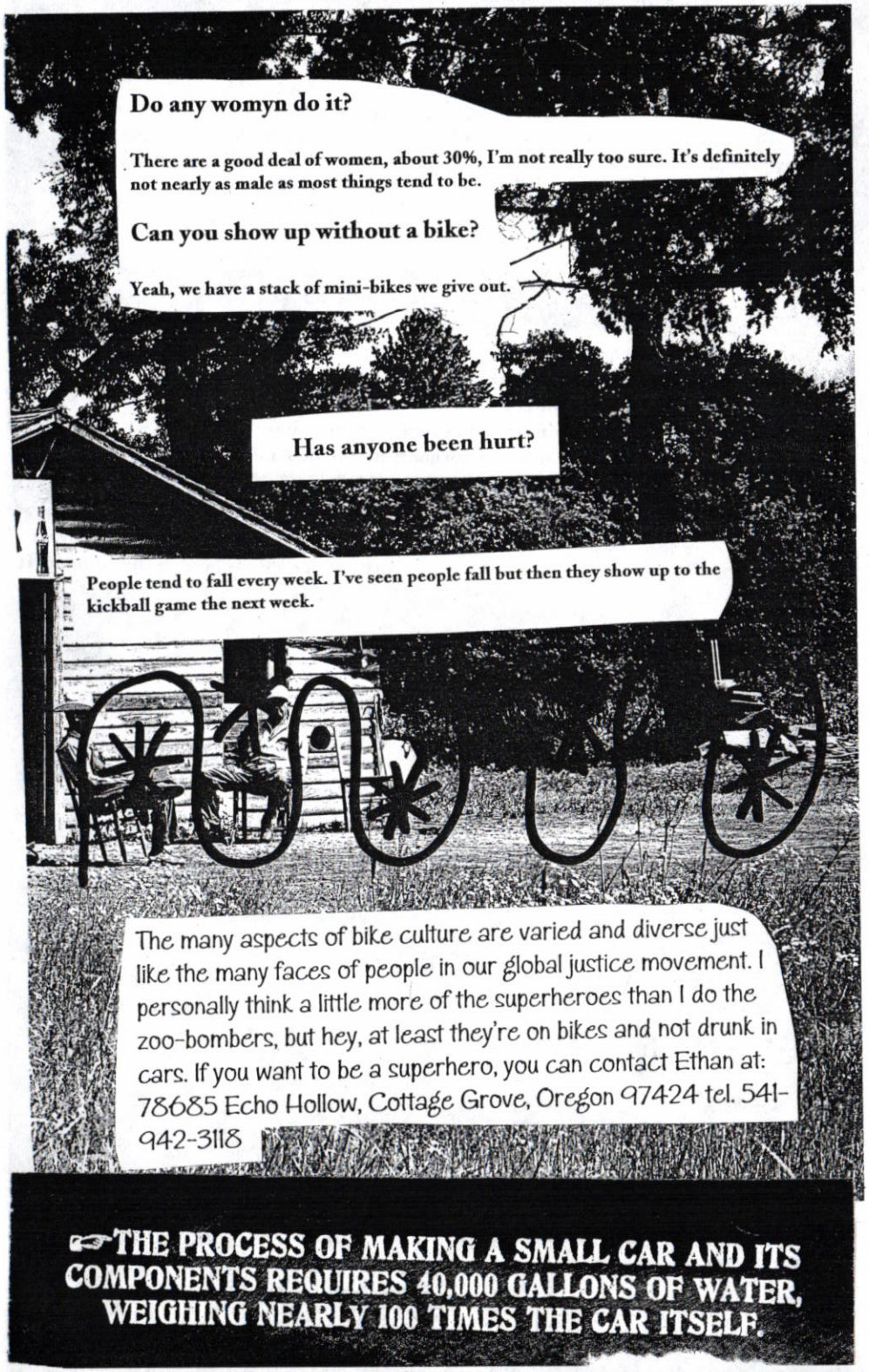
here are some things that we did to prepare for the gasfast tour:
-look at a map.
pick a starting pointing and another point (not necessarily an end) and find towns in between the two. we zig-zagged a bit, and it's not necessary to go in a straight line but close proximity helps guesstimate show dates and traveling time.

-list those towns and find the mileage between them.
thistle and i went on mapquest (www.mapquest.com) to do this. because we weren't taking the same routes that cars would take between the towns, we would over estimate the results we found on mapquest.

-decide how much time you want in towns and how many miles you want to ride a day.
thistle and i decided that we would go 30-50 miles a day (although we ended up shifting these numbers during the tour as we came across places we wanted to stay longer so we would bike longer days). we stayed in smaller towns about two days and stayed in cities up to five days and played several shows.

-pick a starting date and work from there.
now that you have an idea of how long it will take you using your mileage and rate guesstimates you can start to pick show dates. we tried to stay one night in a town before performing to avoid showing up late or being exhausted at a show after a day of biking.





-find venues, friends, or events to play.

thistle and i both had music available online for free download, along with previous contacts and some previous exposure as musicians—this was a plus. you don't need all of this, however, to book a tour. some tunes online, an email address, perhaps a demo, and a winning/persistent attitude can go a long way! because thistle and i have a very political agenda with our music, it was easy to find organizations to help us set up shows especially if they got a cut. we would also make our own shows—performing in farmers markets and street corners while handing out our fliers. booking coffee shops and bars was pretty easy but venues would often charge at the door, when we preferred donations.

-follow up, and start mailing promo materials!

after we had secured most of the first half of the tour, thistle and i mailed several things to the contact people or venue:

posters-for folks to hang around town or at the show space. thistle did work trade with someone in austin who made 11x17 color posters.

merchandise and CDs- thistle made a silk screen of our logo an she printed some shirts to be mailed so we didn't have to bike all of them down the whole time. i made a demo cd of thistle and i and sent it to all of the venues and contacts with happy little notes. we also sent our personal cds that we would sell at shows so we didn't have to haul them and so the venue could play our music to promote the show.

fliers- once we met up in seattle, thistle and i made up a little statement about our tour and our intentions which we had on one side of a quarter page flier with all of the dates and places we performed at on the other side. the flier also had our logo which had been designed by a friend of thistles and i brushed it up using photoshop.

-promotion ideas

flier the town before the show, post your event online (we posted on indymedia sites and wrote articles about the tour), try to get on a community radio show, busk (street perform) and hand out fliers, tell your contacts to email their friends, contact local media (we were in the paper several times for being musicians on bikes), try finding a cycling organization or other groups who might support you, having a website or at least a statement about your tour to send to folks helps.

HELPFUL AND NOT-SO-HELPFUL HINTS

PLANNING AND SLEEPING

-buy a gazatteer (a fancy state atlas) from a corporate bookstore. photocopy the pages you need. return for a full refund. taping the pages in order helps. gazatteers have more detailed roads than most state maps.

-finding a campsite was mostly easy on the gasfast tour, just make sure that you are comfortable with where you are sleeping and trust your instincts. look for sites way before the sun goes down. if you have to squat on someone elses land, leave early!

-bring a brown or green tarp to cover your bike/s when you are camping. not only for waterproofing but also to hide them.

-have cards, gifts, notes ready for your hosts. thistle and i thought that next time we would make bike jewelry and other crafts for our hosts ahead of time, because we were usually in a rush on the way out.

-know what weather and other elements to expect before you start out.

-if you are touring in hot weather take a midday break and start early.

-stretching, water, food, water, water, water, sunscreen (for you light skinned folks), helmets, water, bright clothes, water.

-give yourself more time than you think you'll need.

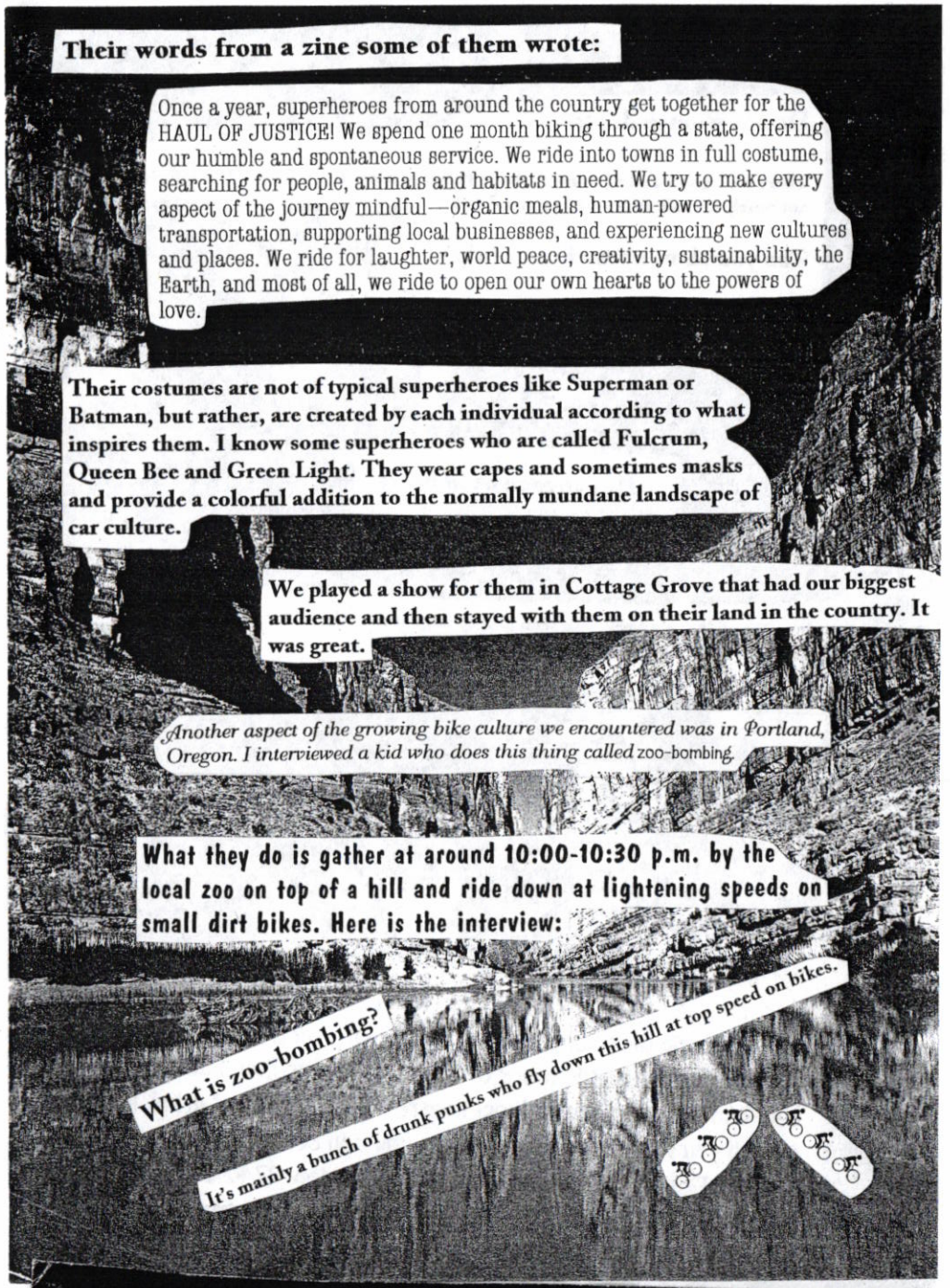
-sometimes we had to knock on doors for potable water. bringing a filter might help so you don't have to carry all of your water between towns.

ON THE ROAD

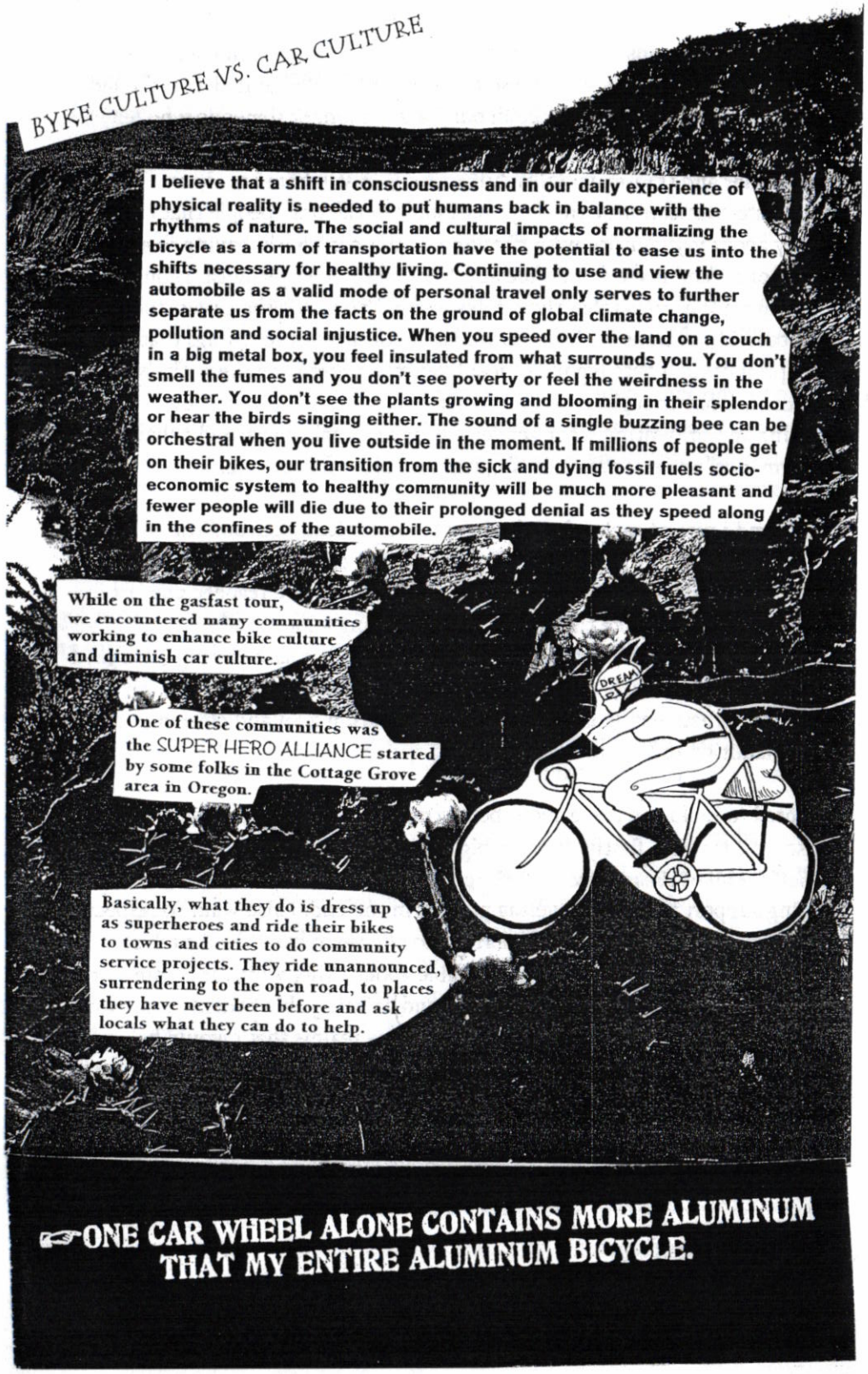
-remember that trucks come out on weekdays and RVs come out on weekends. not much of a choice there.

-on sketchy roads, if there is more than one of you, stick closer together so cars don't have to swerve several times—they might not be expecting the other bikers ahead.

-motorists don't really know what they're talking about. if you want to ask around for routes and safe roads check out a bike shop or local bikers.



☞THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY EMITS TWICE AS MUCH CARBON MONOXIDE AS THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY, THE NEXT LARGEST INDUSTRIAL SOURCE. (THE LARGEST SOURCE IS NOT AN INDUSTRY; IT'S CAR EXHAUST)



YOUR BIKE

-thicker tires are helpful. i had skinny racing tires and some off road adventures weren't very fun.

-make sure that your weight is distributed evenly—both front and back and each side.

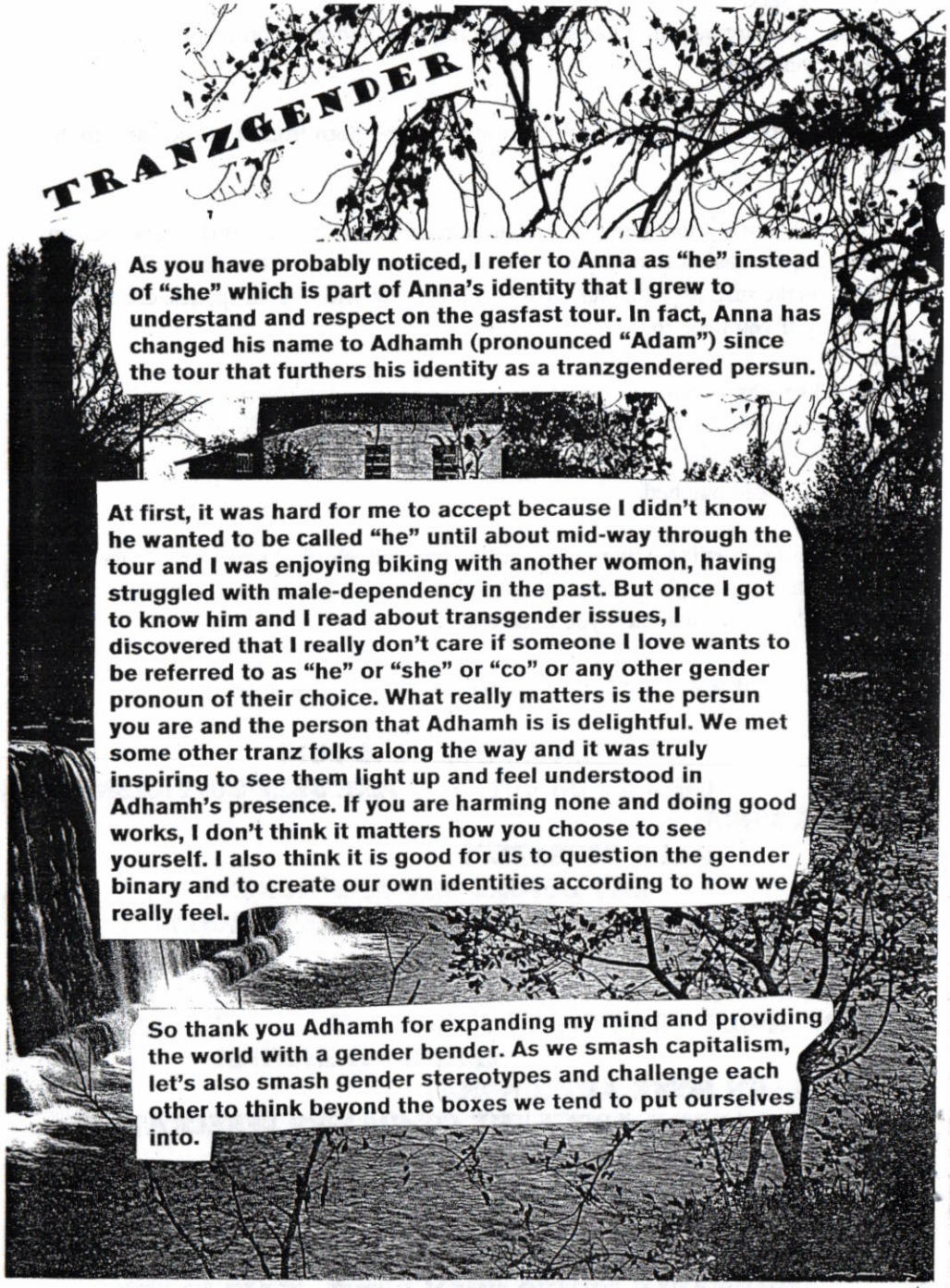
-your back wheel should be burly! i had fairly nice racing wheels that gave out on me during the gasfast tour. if you are planning on touring with a road bike or a hybrid, make sure that the rear wheel on it is thick with lots of spokes. check at a bike shop if you need to.

-thistle brought a floor pump with us. it was very helpful! the tiny pump i had wouldn't have inflated our tires enough. we met a couple of bikers who had to hitch after they punctured one inner tube because their pump wouldn't fill it up after it had been patched.

-on that note, learning how to patch tubes, true wheels, fix breaks, and other maintenance can help your trip run smoother. bring a kit for small repair jobs and a small bike repair manual if you need one.

-make sure your seat is comfy. a good seat can make a huge difference.

RELAX... BIKING IS FUN!
CHECK YOU OUT, YOU ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT!
LOOK AROUND!
PACE YOURSELF!
EAT BEFORE YOU ARE HUNGRY
DRINK BEFORE YOU ARE THIRSTY!
SHARE MASSAGES!
LEARN ABOUT THE PLANT LIFE AROUND YOU!
LEARN ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED ON THE LAND!
LEARN STRETCHES!
LEARN SOME ASTRONOMY!
LEARN ABOUT THE COMPANIES DESECRATING THE LAND AROUND YOU!
MEET PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE LAND!
NOTICE THE MOON EACH NIGHT!
IF IT'S TOO COLD OR RAINY OR YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE RIDING THEN DON'T. WAIT IT OUT, WALK YOUR BIKE, OR HITCH!



but being out as trans on this trip was about more than me. in making visible the possibility of gender expression beyond the binary i could have reached some folks who may never meet an out trans person, or someone who may have never had the language to apply to their own identity. i met several transgender and transexual folks during the gasfast whom i made an immediate connection with. they were some of the only people that i talked openly about my identity with because i wasn't constantly having to explain myself or defend myself or define anything. in some ways i wish i could have been out on the trip so that these folks would know that the gasfast tour could have been about trans visibility as well as all of these other things that we were promoting. i hate having to feel like i'm representing the entire world of gender variance though, especially when every humyn has their own way of defining and presenting what gender means to them—socialized behaviors, performance, a poetic dance of language and presentation, etc.

thistle and i picked each others brains a lot about feminism and trans issues. in the beginning of our journey we disagreed about certain things like womyn only spaces and womyn-centric social movements. as we reached the last leg of our journey i felt like thistle was understanding a lot about my identity and i felt super comfortable talking about gender with her. as a parting gift i gave thistle a book called "queer theory, gender theory" that discussed the relationship between feminism and trans liberation a lot and offered a very fitting addition to our conversations.

i wanted to include a piece about being trans and going on a musical bike tour for several reasons. firstly, it was a big part of the trip for me—closeting myself for all of these reasons, feeling uncomfortable in some situations, and finding support with my traveling partner in the end. i also want to respect all of the identities that folks might have who choose to embark on such a journey. i never had to feel uncomfortable about being white or coming from a rich family or my educational background or being able bodied on the tour. but rest assure that if i lacked privilege in these realms that i would be carrying yet another load on the trip. a lot of our so-called good fortune on the trip had to do with the privileges that we had and a lot of the fears and concerns we had were about things like being female bodied or perceived as queer.

maybe next time around i will clarify my identity more. i will know where my support lies before the tour. i will be ready to tackle the challenging parts like bathroom confrontations or correcting language. i will prepare to be challenged at times and empowered at others.

TRANNY BOIS ON MUSICAL BYKE TOURS

i have been out to my community as transgender for about a year and a half now after a lifetime of searching for language separate from man and womyn to describe how i feel. being trans, for me, has a lot to do with creating space where behaviors, perceptions, and anatomy don't dictate one's gender identity, but where one's individual expression is supported and valued as their own unique gender. it has been an amazing process connecting with so many people about feeling trapped in the dichotomous world of gender and discussing gender socialization with folks of a whole slue of different identities. i have found where my support lies within my partnerships and close friends. i have also felt very alone at times, here in the midwest where trans politics aren't so visible and the glbt (so-called) community has little opposition to leaving out the "t". sometimes i feel like i get stuck in the places i feel most comfortable because i'm tired of explaining myself and giving a trans 101 class to everyone i meet. so when i was traveling on the gasfast tour and being introduced as a "she" in a very gendered genre of "womyn's folk music" ... i gave up.

actually, i had decided before the tour that, because i was going to meet so many people that would probably just see me as a butch dyke folk singer, i wouldn't waste my time explaining my pronoun or my gender identity unless someone has the decency to ask. i also felt like the language surrounding trans issues (like a lot of anti-oppression work) can be somewhat inaccessible and sensitivity to gender identity can be very intellectual and understandably hard for folks to pick up. this is no excuse to be silenced, or to not work on one's own transphobia or reluctance to educate one's self about trans stuff, but i was hesitant to alienate myself from folks who i wouldn't really get to know very well anyway.

in retrospect, though, i wish i had outted myself as trans to more people. i got fed up being called "she" and "womyn" and being shoved into these identities based on people's assumptions. i made a big part of myself invisible by checking my trans identity at the door. *of course i'm a butch dyke if i have short hair, a female sounding voice, and i play acoustic guitar*—but in fact i am a tranny boi, sissy-fag, pansexual, queer! maybe i should just have a business card that explains it all..."hello my name is: adhamh. i go by: he/his/him. i identify as: transgender. gender identity has nothing to do with the gender of my lovers. my anatomy is: no concern to you."

★GENDER
A WAY OF PERCEIVING THINGS AS MASCULINE, FEMININE, OR SOMETHING ALTOGETHER OUTSIDE OF THE TWO, INCLUDING PHYSICAL TRAITS, DRESS, AND BEHAVIOR. OFTEN USED AS A SYNONYM FOR SEX.

★GENDER EXPRESSION
THE MANIFESTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S FUNDAMENTAL SENSE OF BEING MASCULINE, FEMININE, OR SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE TWO THROUGH CLOTHING, BEHAVIOR, GROOMING, ETC

★GENDER IDENTITY
AN INNER SENSE OF BEING.

★TRANSGENDER
AN UMBRELLA TERM THAT INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY CHOOSE TO ALTER THEIR BODY AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT WISH TO. TRANSGENDER IS A GENDER IDENTITY, SOMETIMES REFERRING TO TRANSCENDING GENDER BOUNDARIES OR TRANSITIONING TO BECOME ANOTHER GENDER THAN ONE WAS RAISED AS.

★SEX
BIOLOGICAL SEX, AS EVIDENCED BY CHROMOSOMES, BODY TYPE, GENITALS, AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS. SEX IS DIFFERENT FROM GENDER.



adhamh using a spork as a tire lever ↘

↖ thistLe's rig